

Leverage Your Life
Seek First the Kingdom
Matthew 6:33

Today we're going to see what that should look like for people who want to leverage our lives for the glory of God!

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." **Matthew 6:33**

Jesus knew that life brings along many concerns and cares. He experienced it for Himself first hand in the flesh, and He knows you and what you're going through today. But in the middle of all of that He pointed out the one thing that matters most and it's still true today. If we want to have lives that make an impact on eternity, we need to leverage them like Jesus did.

Main Idea: Leverage Your Life by Living as Citizens of the Kingdom of God

Two Key Instructions for Leveraging your Life in Matthew 6:33

1. Seek the Kingdom First

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness"

Matthew 6:33a

Jesus came to leverage His life for God and that meant dying for you and me so that we could be brought into this perfect

Kingdom! If you have placed your faith in Jesus then you are a citizen of a new Kingdom.

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son" **Colossians 1:13**

"Throughout the Bible, the kingdom of God is His rule, His plan, and His program...In fact we can define the kingdom of God as God's comprehensive rule over all creation." **Tony Evans**

The Kingdom of God is His **eternal** reign.

That's a **future place**, but also **a truth for the past**, and **a present reality** for us today. One day we will experience the fullness of His rule in every way.

Right now, His rule is on display as the citizens of His Kingdom leverage our lives for His glory ***everywhere we live, work, and play***. Jesus is teaching His followers to live differently from the world by leveraging our lives missionally for the kingdom of God, in every sphere God has placed us in.

Seeking the Kingdom first means that what is most important to the King becomes most important to us!

Jesus loves the world out there the same way. He's inviting them to be saved and brought into the Kingdom with Him.

If we love the King, we'll prioritize what's important to Him. He says, seek first the kingdom.

Not only that! But we are to seek His righteousness!

As we pursue His righteousness we are better image bearers, showing the world what our good King is like.

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” 2 Corinthians 5:20

We are members of the Kingdom, joining Jesus in delivering the message and pointing people to the saving message of the Gospel! We direct people to eternal life that is not only about the future but affects our reality today!

As we put Christ first in everything we do, we get to show off the goodness of God in our lives!

We reflect His righteousness. As the local church:

- 1) **We introduce people to Jesus** - Share the gospel, clearly, boldly, urgently, and often!
- 2) **We disciple one another towards Kingdom living** - Replicate His righteousness in our lives. Show that His way is best! Satisfying and Fulfilling!
- 3) **We send for the expansion of the Kingdom** - That means planting new churches, reaching our mission field, locally and globally, and seeing greater impact for the Kingdom of God.

“It will not do to say that you have no special call to go...With these facts before you and with the command of the Lord Jesus to

go and preach the gospel to every creature, you need rather to ascertain whether you have a special call to stay at home.”

Hudson Taylor

Seeking the Kingdom means seeing the world as the mission field God has placed us on.

He will get the glory and we will get the blessing.

His kingdom, His rule, is better, right now and forever.

He is the King worth leveraging our whole life to serve.

2. Trust the King with Everything Else

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

What keeps us from seeking the Kingdom first in our lives?

It’s all the other things! Whatever that entails.

“Church life” versus everything else. We separate “real life” issues. Sacred vs Secular.

Jesus makes no distinction. Seeking the Kingdom means God’s rule invades and overcomes every area of life, and that means we are not slaves to the cares of the world!

Life is filled with concerns and Jesus does not deny that.

But listen to what He says about those things:

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will

put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ...For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

Matthew 6:25, 32

All of these are important. Live responsibly with the wisdom God gives you and the means that He provides you with. **But the challenge is not to let it consume you!**

God is so confident in His ability to provide for you and care for your needs that He even says to test Him in this by giving our resources away!

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.” **Malachi 3:10**

God is Lord over all that happens, anything that can cause us to fear or to lose focus on the Kingdom work He has given us to be about.

A citizen of the Kingdom of God knows who our King is and what He is capable of. Our God makes promises and keeps them.

“I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.” **Jeremiah 31:3b**

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” **Philippians 4:19**

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” **Psalms 23:4**

We’re invited to trust God with everything, and choose to live for His Kingdom. It takes the pressure off of you, and places it on the One who can carry it all with ease!

Main Idea: Leverage Your Life by Living as Citizens of the Kingdom of God

We can leverage our lives for God because we know that as we do what He’s asked us to do, He has our back, through it all.

Jesus calls believers to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness:

- **Focus on the task** He’s called you to do
- **Take risks for the Kingdom** of God and do hard things in faith, for His glory!
- **Live for Him without fear!**
- **Even when you fall**, look to Him, even in our sinful moments, He does not let you go. Repent and move forward again.

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“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” **Isaiah 41:10**

He is worthy of our trust so we can focus our cares on being part of building His kingdom and not ours! **Let’s choose to leverage our lives for the Kingdom of God!**

Before you can leverage your life for the Kingdom, you need the King. And He is seeking after you!

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
Luke 19:10

Jesus came to find you, to save you from the brokenness of sin, and He’s welcoming you home. **Would you turn away from seeking your own kingdom and let God have His way in your life?** Place your faith in Jesus to save you today!

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *The Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *ESV Study Bible* – Crossway (2008)
- *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* – Walvoord & Zuck (1983)
- *The Kingdom Agenda* – Tony Evans (2013)
- *Kingdom First* – Jeff Christopherson & Mac Lake (2015)
- *Matthew* – H. A. Ironside (1948)