

Sermon Topic: “How Do I Live for God: Put God First”

Scripture Texts: (Matthews 6:33; NLT)

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Introduction

We are living in a world full of distractions, anxiety, and competing priorities. People are chasing success, security, relationships, money, and recognition every day — hoping those things will bring peace. Yet Jesus gives us a different order for life:

- a) Not possessions first.
- b) Not popularity first.
- c) Not even our own plans first.

(Matthew 6:33 NLT) - “Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.”

What does it mean when Jesus says: **“Seek first the Kingdom of God.”**

This verse is not merely a suggestion; it is a kingdom principle.

When God is first, everything else finds its proper place.

I) What Does It Mean to Seek the Kingdom?

The word **“seek”** means:

- ✓ ***to pursue passionately,***
- ✓ ***to desire earnestly,***

- ✓ *to place as a priority.*

Jesus is saying:

- ✓ Make God your highest pursuit.
- ✓ Desire His will above your own.
- ✓ Pursue His rule in every area of life.

The Kingdom of God is wherever God reigns.

It is not just a place we go someday - it is when God has total control of our hearts.

Seeking the Kingdom means:

- ✓ Seeking God's presence
- ✓ Seeking God's will
- ✓ Seeking God's ways
- ✓ Seeking God's agenda over our own

In today's life, too many people want God as a helper but not as King.

But Jesus did not say:

"Seek the blessings first."

He said:

"Seek the Kingdom first."

Key Thought

When the *King has your heart*, the *Kingdom has your life.*

II) Seeking God First Requires Surrender

You cannot seek God first while putting yourself first.

Seeking the Kingdom demands surrender:

- ✓ Surrender of plans
- ✓ Surrender of priorities
- ✓ Surrender of control

Jesus calls us to move from:

“My will” → to → “Thy will be done.”

Sometimes God will ask us to:

- ✓ Forgive when we want revenge
- ✓ Give when we want to keep
- ✓ Wait when we want to rush
- ✓ Trust when we cannot see

Seeking first means trusting God even when life feels uncertain.

Illustration

A compass always points north. Likewise, the believer's life should always point toward God no matter the circumstance.

III) “Seek His Righteousness”

Jesus did not say **only seek the Kingdom**.

He also said seek ***“His righteousness.”***

Righteousness means - living in right relationship with God and walking in obedience.

We cannot seek God's Kingdom while ignoring God's standards.

Righteousness is:

- ✓ Integrity when nobody is watching
- ✓ Holiness in a compromising culture
- ✓ Obedience over convenience
- ✓ Character over appearance

The world says:

"Do what feels good."

God says:

"Live what is right."

Seeking righteousness means becoming more like Christ daily.

IV) The Promise: "He Will Give You Everything You Need"

Notice Jesus says **"need,"** not **"greed."**

God knows what His children need before they ask.

In the verses before Matthew 6:33, Jesus speaks about worry:

- ✓ Worry about food
- ✓ Worry about clothing
- ✓ Worry about tomorrow

Then Jesus gives the remedy for anxiety:

Put God first.

When we prioritize the Kingdom:

- ✓ God provides
- ✓ God guides
- ✓ God sustains
- ✓ God opens doors
- ✓ God gives peace

This does not mean life will be easy.

It means God will be faithful.

Key Truth

When God is first in your life, you never have to fear being forgotten by Him.

V) What Does Seeking First Look Like Practically?

Seeking first the Kingdom is not merely words spoken on Sunday. It should be a lifestyle.

It looks like:

- ✓ Prayer before panic
- ✓ Worship before worry
- ✓ Obedience before opportunity
- ✓ God's Word before public opinion

It means:

- ✓ Putting God first in your time

- ✓ Putting God first in your finances
- ✓ Putting God first in your relationships
- ✓ Putting God first in your decisions

The question is not:

“Is God part of my life?”

The real question is:

“Is God first in my life?”

VI) Conclusion

Many people are exhausted because they are chasing after things that were never meant to come first.

Jesus gives us the divine order:

- 1) Seek the Kingdom
- 2) Walk in righteousness
- 3) Trust God for provision

When priorities are out of order, life becomes chaotic.

But when God is first, peace follows.

Turn to your neighbor and say:

Today God is calling you back to alignment.

- ✓ Not halfway commitment.
- ✓ Not occasional devotion.
- ✓ But wholehearted pursuit of the King.

Closing Challenge

Ask yourself:

- ✓ What am I truly seeking first?
- ✓ What competes with God for first place in my life?
- ✓ Have I surrendered fully to the rule of Christ?

Because wherever your treasure is, your heart will follow.

And the greatest life is the life where Jesus is not merely present -
but preeminent.

Closing Prayer

“Father God, help us to seek Your Kingdom above all else. Reorder our priorities and align our hearts with Your will. Teach us to trust You fully and walk in righteousness daily.

Remove every distraction that competes for first place in our lives. May Your Kingdom rule in us and through us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”