***The Sermon on the Mount***

**Instructions about Money, Part 3; Matthew 6:19-34**

**Seek First His Kingdom**

**Background: Three Main Commands about money**

* **Store Up Treasures in Heaven, Do Not Be Anxious, Seek First God’s Kingdom**

**Exposition of Matthew 6:33**

1. **Seek First**
   * **Seek the kingdom before seeking “all these things” - food, clothes, shelter**
   * **Christ’s promise to seekers, Matthew 7:7-8**
2. **His Kingdom**
   * **The kingdom of God represents the reign, authority, and will of God, Matt. 6:10**
   * **The kingdom of God is good news and is inexorably connected to God’s Son, Jesus Christ, Matt. 4:23, 9:35**
   * **We must prepare for the kingdom of God by repenting of sins, Matt. 3:2, 4:17**
   * **We must enter the kingdom of God with childlike faith, humility, and by doing the will of the Heavenly Father, Matt. 5:3, 7:21, 18:1-4, 19:14**
   * **We experience the kingdom of God both now (in part) and in the future (in full), Matt. 10:7, 13:44-46, 26:29**
   * **We will receive a reward when the fullness of the kingdom of God comes, Matt. 25:34**
   * **We maximize that reward in the kingdom of God by living a humble, gracious, gentle, righteous, servant type life with Christ-like imitation, Matt. 5:3, 5:19-20, 6:1-18, 18:1-4**
3. **His Righteousness**
   * **We must pursue God’s righteous standard as much as our daily food, Matt. 5:6**
   * **Pursuing righteousness may bring persecution, Matt. 5:10**
   * **Righteousness must mark the life of any person entering God’s kingdom, but righteousness should not be done with the purpose of impressing others, Matt. 5:20, 6:1**
4. **All These Things Will Be Added To You**
   * **God will take care of our basic needs**
   * **We must seek His kingdom and His righteousness**

***The Sermon on the Mount***

**Instructions about Money, Part 3; Matthew 6:19-34**

**Seek First His Kingdom**

**Scripture Reading and Prayer**

* **Read Matthew 6:19-34 (Slides)**

**Exposition Matthew 6:33 (Slide 1 – Header Slide)**

1. **Background: Three Main Commands about money :**
   * **Read Matthew 6:20-21 (Slide 2)**
   * **Store Up Treasures in Heaven**
   * **Read Matthew 6:25 (Slide 3)**
   * **Do Not Be Anxious**
   * Observation from someone much like the rest of us, “Worrying works! 90% of the things I worry about never happen”
   * Last week we observed several reasons to not be anxious
   * **Seek First God’s Kingdom**
   * **Read Matthew 6:33 (Slide 4)**
   * These three commands by Jesus give us the foundation of how to handle money
   * Store up treasures in heaven, do not worry about life on earth, seek first His kingdom and his righteousness
2. **Seek First**
   * **Instead of worry, seek first**
   * **This is a command from Jesus, not a suggestion or good advice, but a command**
   * **Do this thing, says Jesus. Do this – seek first these things**
   * **Make this the priority of your life**
   * **Make this your motive for the way you live**
   * **Make this the underpinning purpose for work, relationships, school**
   * **A life verse, a verse that helps set all other scripture into focus**
3. **His Kingdom**
   * **Let’s explore the**
   * **The kingdom of God represents the reign, authority, and will of God, Matt. 6:10**
   * **Read Matthew 6:9-10 (Slide 5)**
   * We can see this in several statements by Jesus, but the one most closely associated with this passage of Matthew 6:33 is from the model prayer
   * “Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”
   * The kingdom of God is associated with the reign, authority and will of God
   * **The kingdom of God is good news and is inexorably connected to God’s Son, Jesus Christ, Matt. 4:23, 9:35**
   * **Read Matthew 4:23 (Slide 6)**
   * The Gospel of the kingdom – the kingdom of God is here and it is good news
   * Not everyone views the rule of God through His Son to be good news
   * Many reject out of hand the rule of God in their life
   * This is the first sin of Adam and Eve – to be like God – to replace God in the setting of what is right and wrong
   * **We must prepare for the kingdom of God by repenting of sins, Matt. 3:2, 4:17**
   * **Read Matthew 4:17 (Slide 7)**
   * Turning from our own control of our lives and turning to God is the first act of preparation for the kingdom of God
   * Repentance is a primary act of the good news of the kingdom of God
   * We cannot speak of the reign of God until we relinquish our own self-governance
   * **We must enter the kingdom of God with childlike faith, humility, and by doing the will of the Heavenly Father, Matt. 5:3, 7:21, 18:1-4, 19:14**
   * **Read Matthew 18:3-4 (Slide 8)**
   * We are not born as kingdom citizens
   * We are born outside the kingdom as rebels against the king
   * We must enter the kingdom of heaven, we must become citizens of the Heavenly King
   * It is not a birth right like becoming a citizen of a nation
   * We are aliens to this kingdom, we are not citizens by birth or right
   * We must enter into the kingdom, we must become citizens in the kingdom
   * **We experience the kingdom of God both now (in part) and in the future (in full), Matt. 10:7, 13:44-46, 26:29**
   * **Read Matthew 13:44 (Slide 9)**
   * The man who finds the treasure, experiences the immediate joy of the his discovery
   * However, he returns to his old possessions
   * His situation has been altered by what he has experienced, but the fullness of that experience is still yet future
   * We enter the kingdom and experience the kingdom even now
   * When we gather on Sunday mornings, we are kingdom citizens with a Benevolent, gracious King as our ruler
   * We experience the kingdom when we go fourth in His name
   * However, we do not now experience the kingdom in all its fullness
   * There is still yet something to come in terms of our experience of the kingdom
   * **We will receive a reward when the fullness of the kingdom of God comes, Matt. 25:34**
   * **Read Matthew 25:31-32, 34 (Slide 10-11)**
   * Christ returns to receive His kingdom from His Heavenly Father
   * He returns and He separates nations and puts the sheep on His right and the goats on the left – “Come now and receive the kingdom.”
   * **We maximize that reward in the kingdom of God by living a humble, gracious, gentle, righteous, servant type life with Christ-like imitation, Matt. 5:3, 5:19-20, 6:1-18, 18:1-4**
   * **Read Matthew 5:3 (Slide 12)**
   * Matthew 6:1 speaks to the reward and we have looked at this reward type language the last few weeks
   * Now let’s return to the original verse
   * **Read Matthew 6:33 (Slide 13)**
   * We must seek, pursue, desire the kingdom of God – His reign and rule over us and His reign and rule in this world until He comes in the fullness of His kingdom
4. **His Righteousness**

* **We must pursue God’s righteous standard as much as our daily food, Matt. 5:6**
* **Read Matthew 5:6 (Slide 14)**
* This is our daily bread, the righteousness of our Heavenly Father
* He has a standard of living and He has provided this standard for our good and His greater glory in our lives
* If the kingdom of God represents His rule and reign then we are seeking the kingdom when we are seeking His priorities
* All other forms of living are in open rebellion against the King
* **Pursuing righteousness may bring persecution, Matt. 5:10**
* **Read Matthew 5:10 (Slide 15)**
* This is not a promise for an easy life, pursing God’s kingdom puts us on the opposite side of the world’s ruler
* When we live for God we are opposing the ruler of this life
* Game 2 of ALCS a Yankee fan sitting right in front of us – at odds with the rest much of the stadium
* For 2000 years the kingdom of God has been pressed on all sides from those outside the church seeking to eliminate its influence and from those inside the church seeking to pervert its influence
* Jesus calls us to seek the kingdom and the righteous standard of the King with the result that we will face difficulties
* **Righteousness must mark the life of any person entering God’s kingdom, but righteousness should not be done with the purpose of impressing others, Matt. 5:20, 6:1**
* **Read Matthew 5:20-21 (Slide 16)**
* **We cannot claim to be kingdom citizens and live whole in opposition to the standards of God’s kingdom**
* **This is not a works based salvation, for Jesus already said, unless we become like little children we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven**
* **However, we cannot claim to be kingdom citizens and live in a state of rebellion against the kingdom**

1. **Conclusion**

* Pulling all of this together, let’s return to the verse
* **Read Matthew 6:33 (Slide 17)**
* We are to have a priority to our lives, seek first these things – the kingdom and the righteousness of God
* God promises to us that He will take care of the other things

Announcements:

1. Fall festival
2. Wednesday evening meal