

Foundations Bible Study – Sermon on the Mount
Lesson 4

Scripture Readings:

- **Matthew 6:19-34**

Lesson

This section of the Sermon on the Mount contains one of the foundational verses of the entire Bible. The words and teaching of Christ here lays a basic building block for all of Jesus' teachings. We are looking at verse 33:

“But, seek first God’s Kingdom and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Here we find two questions, what is “God’s Kingdom and righteousness” and what are “all these things”?

We have discussed the Kingdom of God before, and here it is again. Maybe it is an important concept of Christ as he mentions it often. The Kingdom can be viewed in many ways. Before Christ and even in the early church this language meant a physical Kingdom on earth, like a nation, like Israel. This is one of the reasons the nation of Israel is so important to Jews even today. A place where God’s people can go, live, be in the presence of God.

Later as the church grew across Europe and North America the concept changed to a Kingdom of the future. More like the Kingdom of heaven, it became the eternal reward for those whom accept and follow Christ. The Kingdom of God came to mean also exclusively heaven.

Over the past few years or so a new concept has risen. This new way of thinking and being Christian appeals much to me. This way is similar to the first in it’s teaching, but not nationalistic in nature. The Kingdom is here and now, the Kingdom is alive and well, the Kingdom of God lives and breathes in you and me. We are the Kingdom always seeking Christ and God to lead our lives and influence our worlds. You see Christ saw a new-birth, a re-birth, a second-birth; he called it “born again.” Isn’t that the Kingdom of God; God living in our lives each day? I think so.....

Next Jesus moved on to say we should seek after the righteousness of God. Once we have been born again and re-birthed in the presence of God, through Christ and by the Holy Spirit, we are to live our lives in the ways of God, the Kingdom ways. We are compelled, called, commanded to live good, just, and right.

Now comes the hard part, living the ways of Jesus is not so profitable at times, is not so appealing at times, is not so successful at times in our world. But, that my

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friend is the point of Jesus' teaching here in verse 33 and just before. When we take care of our lives in the ways of God, good, just, and right; "All these things will be given us." I'm not at all sure what that means. I have come to believe that what Christ is trying to teach me is I worry too much about the wrong stuff. I should be more concerned about the God stuff and less the stuff of this world. That, for me at least, is a "hard row to hoe."

As we look before and after this key verse I think it all ties together. Our treasures, our worries, our masters, they dictate our lives as individuals and as the church. It all comes down to a couple more verses found in this section, for me anyway:

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" verse 21 and "Don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself, after all isn't there enough trouble in today to keep you busy." Verse 34

This section of Christ's Sermon on the Mount is full of ideas and ways of living that can and do change our lives. Well, at least they should if we can live by them a little more each day.

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. What do you think Christ meant by, "Treasures in heaven"?
2. What are the things that come before God in our lives?
3. What is your greatest worry?
4. Define "God's righteousness".
5. How do you deal with life's worries?