

The Right Priorities

1. Jesus plainly taught that men should prioritize their lives with God first. **MAT 6:31-34.**
 - A. kingdom: Kingly function, authority, or power; sovereignty, supreme rule; the position or rank of a king, kingship. 4. *trans.* and *fig.* a. The spiritual sovereignty of God or Christ, or the sphere over which this extends, in heaven or on earth; the spiritual state of which God is the head.
 - B. This kingdom is not secular but inward and spiritual. **LUK 17:20-21; ROM 14:17.**
 - (1) We know that Jesus reigns as King with all power in heaven and earth. **MAT 28:18; 1PE 3:22.**
 - (2) But is He reigning in our hearts? Are His interests and government only platitudes or only duties for the rest of the creation? What is our chief motivation?
 - (3) The heart of man will plow ahead in vain until it is turned to the Lord. **2CO 3:15-16.**
 - (4) One who has genuinely had an encounter with King Jesus will say, "...Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?..." (**ACT 9:6**) and then proceed to do as directed, subjugating his will to God's.
 - C. The first concern of a submitted heart in any situation should not be:
 - (1) How will this profit me materially? ct/w **MAR 8:36; 1TI 6:9.**
 - (2) How will this work out if I just do what God plainly tells me? ct/w **PRO 3:5-6.**
 - (3) How will this look to my family, friends, others? ct/w **MAT 10:37-39; 1TH 4:1.**
 - (4) How much can I get away with? ct/w **ECC 12:13-14.**
 - (5) How much will submission to God cost me? ct/w **MAR 10:17-23.**
 - D. God should be our first love. **MAT 22:37-38 c/w REV 2:4.**
2. The kingdom of God is something to be found or sought as a great treasure. **MAT 13:44-46.**
 - A. If one values the kingdom correctly, he will safeguard his possession. **EPH 5:1-5.**
 - B. If one values the kingdom correctly, he will not forsake it under pressure. **HEB 10:32-35.**
3. In seeking first the kingdom of God, one should also be seeking His righteousness. **MAT 6:33.**
 - A. He will plead with God for understanding in this regard. **PSA 119:128, 18.**
 - B. He will reject artificial righteousness. **MAT 5:19-20.**
 - C. He will find God's righteousness to be unreachable by nature. **ROM 10:5; GAL 3:10.**
 - D. He will be compelled to admit his guilt before a holy God in spite of good efforts. **ISA 64:6.**
 - (1) This humility is the path to exaltation. **MAT 23:12.**
 - (2) This recognition is opening of the door of faith and hope in Christ. **2CO 5:21.**
 - (3) This is how one submits himself to God's righteousness. **ROM 10:3.**
 - (4) In finding and cleaving to Christ, one comes into the greatest treasures. **COL 2:3; HEB 11:26.**
4. In seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, the diligent seeker will find the church of the living God in this world.
 - A. Jesus appointed His disciples a kingdom where they would sup with Him at His table: the church. **LUK 22:29-30.**
 - B. He will see Jesus crowned with glory and honor in heaven ruling as Head and King over the church in this world. **HEB 2:9; EPH 1:20-23.**
 - C. He will see His church as the nation of divine government in this world to which he must render fidelity and identify with fellow-believers. **ACT 2:36-41 c/w HEB 11:24-25.**

5. In seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, one will prioritize his life accordingly.
 - A. He will make true worship of God his first order of business, as Noah. **GEN 8:20.**
 - (1) He will build his week around public worship, adjusting his life accordingly, that he might routinely and regularly with others present his body a living sacrifice to God. **ROM 12:1-2.**
 - (2) He will not forsake assembling with his brethren of like precious faith. **HEB 10:25; PSA 27:4.**
 - B. He will not settle for a “cop-out” church. **PSA 84:10.**
 - C. He will spend regular time with God in prayer and study of His word. **EPH 6:17-18.**
 - D. He will concede that godliness is the excellent profit. **1TI 4:8; 6:5-7.**

6. The true seeker will not wait until it is convenient to submit to God and His righteousness.
 - A. Felix was moved but didn’t move. **ACT 24:24-25.**
 - B. The carnal Jews made light of the kingdom because they had other priorities, and paid a dear price. **LUK 14:15-24.**
 - C. Publicans and harlots by contrast repented to enter the kingdom. **MAT 21:31.**

7. “...and all these things shall be added unto you” (**MAT 6:33**).
 - A. God is a faithful rewarder of true seekers. **HEB 11:6.**
 - B. The concerns of the flesh will be provided in due time. **MAR 10:28-30.**
 - C. Don’t reverse the priorities. **MAR 10:31.**