



## Priority One

*Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.* — Matthew 6:33

What do you think about most?—talk about most?—want to go do most? When you wake up in the morning what's first on your mind? I wonder how many of us still rise up early in the morning to go seek sweet refreshment from the Father in prayer instead of from sleeping in ...like Jesus often did His praying? What an Example! Christ's priorities were certainly in order.

Today, it is God's will that you and I prioritize the diligent seeking of His Kingdom and daily-right-living (in Christ) ahead of what we feel like seeking. I surely don't mean to say we can never sleep in. But the Spirit wants to guide us. As we remember God as our Source and obey His Word, He promises to meet all our needs.

Yes, it's in this context, that Jesus told us not to worry about the "stuff" we need – you know, what we'll eat, drink and put on. When He did this, He didn't mean we should not plan or take wise action regarding the things we or our families need. And Christ put the emphasis here on the word "worry." Worrying is such a waste of time and energy! Prayer isn't. Christ didn't say, "Don't ever think about this stuff." Nor did He imply, "Don't make preparations in advance for your needs." He simply commanded, "Don't worry" ...and said this for our good. There are other things and people to be concerned about.

You know how the Bible strongly criticizes laziness and yet some people refuse to work, wanting to seek the stuff of others and live off the faith and generosity of others. Sadly, some preachers even do this. But God's Word says that if you don't work, you shouldn't eat (2 Thess. 3:10). So go find a job. Look until you find one. Then cooperate in your employment with the Lord as a dependable servant, so that you'll have more than you need and then be able to give to some sort of soul-winning-helping-mission. The Bible encourages us to plan for the future and learn from the example of the hard working ant that likes to plan ahead (Prov. 6:6–8). The Bible doesn't advocate slothfulness, laziness and irresponsibility, but it does advocate working smart and the whole-hearted seeking of God through prayer.

We are not to be obsessed with physical, perishable stuff that can get holes in it, wear out, rust, get torn-away in a Texas tornado (we've had seven this month), or get ripped off. We are not to be preoccupied with worldly stuff or entertainment that totally wedges God out. Jesus explained that's how nonbelievers are. ***"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What***

*shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..." (Matt. 6:31-33).*

Distracted preoccupation with pleasure and worldly entertainment is the emphasis of so many people today to the exclusion of time with God—what to eat, what to TiVo, what to shop for and wear? Their whole lives revolve around materialistic goals, but God give us the ability to resist the world's pressure. Jesus warned that this stuff won't do it for you. It won't fill the inner-void or satisfy the deepest longings of your heart. I like TiVo and am not here to condemn anyone. Just be encouraged in forming the habit of saying "No" to your flesh and to hyper-busyness. Know that Someone who cares is there waiting for you, to hear all about what's bugging you. Why make "stuff" your primary pursuit in life? Rather, seek the Lord before all else and expect that everything you need will be generously provided for you. God will answer your questions in His time and take good care of you. He is so practical. He will supply as you serve Him!

It seems like Americans are more and more seeking the supernatural in the wrong places these days. The Bible says, "***Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them***" (Lev 19:31). I don't know about you, but I want to do like Jehoshaphat did! "***Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD***" (2 Ch. 20:3).

Have you ever heard of Justin Martyr? He was a second-century man that was open for the supernatural, and he sought after truth. He read Greek classical writers, carefully examining and analyzing every philosophy from every angle. He wanted insight; he wanted the answer to his longings for sexual purity. I wish more Americans did! But all of his seeking initially seemed to be in vain. He wrote, "*All at last did faithless prove, and late or soon betrayed love.*"

One day, as he was aimlessly wandering along the seashore, he ran into an elderly man who befriended him and clearly spoke to his heart as no one had done in the past. The man pointed Justin to the Bible and to Jesus Christ. And in that simple witnessing effort, Justin found the Person and knowledge he had wanted and sought for all his life— "***the knowledge of God***" (Prov. 2:4-5).

Perhaps you, like Justin, are searching for insight, for truth, for answers – looking everywhere for ***significance*** instead of mere ***survival***. Come to Jesus today! Get honest with Him. If you've blown it, He will forgive you. Ask Him to. "***Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!***" (1 Ch. 16:11). And have a wonderful day.

Have Kurt's fishing devos blessed you? Click on the "Contact" button and let him know!

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