

FIRST THINGS FIRST

"But seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:33)

REFLECTION

What should be your priority in life as a follower of Christ?

I am sure you have a list of what those things might be. In the verse which we have for this reflection, Jesus is calling our attention to what He considers as of utmost importance. That is why He advises the disciples and the crowd to "*seek first*," that is to get their priority right.

If what He is saying is of secondary importance or something optional, Jesus could very well be tentative and suggest something along these lines; "*If you have the time, will you seek after God's Kingdom and righteousness?*" Or He could have said, "*I know you are busy and you have many other things to pursue in life, but how about sparing some thoughts and check out on God's Kingdom and righteousness?*"

The fact of the matter is that Matthew 6:33 is an unambiguous call for Christians to do first things first. That is why Jesus says, "*seek first*" - not second or third, or when it is convenient - but to "seek first" the teachings of the Kingdom of God.

Apart from the Kingdom of God, this priority also requires us to be interested in matters related to His righteousness, both in the spiritual and moral sense. In the Old Testament "righteousness" is usually paired with "justice" reflecting both the character of God and His expectation for us to live a life marked by righteousness and justice.

If we fear God and love Him, the most important thing in life must be to "*Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.*" Once we get our priority right, other things will fall into place. Or as Jesus puts it, "*and all these things will be added to you.*" This will cover what we need for a life of joy, peace, sufficiency and contentment.

PRAYER

"Our Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us and watching over us. Keep us free from want. At the same time, teach us to always be ready to extend help to those who are in need. In our walk with You, give us courage and wisdom to seek after the values and teachings of Your kingdom, and to pursue Your spiritual and moral righteousness. In the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen."

SUPPLICATION

- We do not want to take our blessings for granted. Therefore, for access to food and shelter; healthcare and education in Singapore, in spite of global COVID pandemic and economic upheavals, we give thanks to our Lord.
- It has been more than a year since the outbreak of COVID19. While we thank God for the availability of a number of vaccines, we pray to God that better and more efficacious vaccines will be produced, and the poorer countries will have affordable and timely access to these vaccines. We pray too that the vaccines will work against the spread of the coronavirus and the new strains which have emerged in different countries.
- Pray for those who have been badly hit by COVID-19, especially those who have lost their job. Ask God for help in finding suitable employment for those who are jobless and those who are underemployed. Pray also for Christians and churches to be alert to people in need and to respond to them with Christian love and practical assistance.
- We pray for Christians to find joy and satisfaction in living a faithful life that will seek after the way of God, so that they will be effective and contagious witnesses, lovingly and sensibly pointing people to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

*"I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold;
I'd rather have Jesus than to have riches untold;
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or land;
I'd rather be led by his nailed-pierced hand.*

*Than to be the king of a vast domain,
And be held in sin's dread sway.
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today."*

(King Oscar C.A. Bernadotte)

If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly contact the pastoral care team via:

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