

Seek First - Matthew 6:33 Part 3

Mat 6:31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' **32** "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- ❖ In our previous lessons, we saw that;
 - ✓ We are not to be distracted from seeking first **the kingdom of God and His righteousness** by being preoccupied with the things of this life, as our Father knows that we need them.
 - ✓ We also noted that seeking of His kingdom and His righteousness are synonymous as one cannot be without the other.
 - ✓ We studied in depth on what seeking His righteousness is all about as entrance into the kingdom that we are seeking is dependent on it.
 - ✓ We looked at the righteousness of the Scribes and the Pharisees and how their actions would shut the kingdom of heaven on them and on the ones they are leaders of. However, it is important to mention that, even in those circumstances, there are those individuals who believed on Christ as their Messiah and the kingdom that was on offer for them.
 - ✓ We also looked at the righteousness that Abraham and Paul exemplified; the righteousness that is from God by faith. That is the righteousness that would exceed that of the Scribes and the Pharisees as theirs was based on the traditions of the elders.

Matt. 5:20 "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

The kingdom of God

- ❖ The first man, the first Adam, in the beginning of Scripture, was created to replace the incumbent ruler in the kingdom associated with one province in God's universal kingdom - the earth.

Gen. 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **27** So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them.** **28** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; **have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.
- ❖ The second Man, the last Adam, near the end of Scripture, is seen returning back to this earth to take this kingdom from this same ruler.

Rev. 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"
- ❖ And all that lies between these two points has to do with a restoration of those from the lineage of the first Adam so that they can realize an inheritance with the last Adam when He takes the kingdom, realizing the purpose for man's creation in the beginning.
- ❖ Salvation by grace DOES NOT, in and of itself, automatically move man back into the position which he occupied prior to the fall. Rather, salvation by grace places him in a position where he CAN one day find himself completely free from sin, enswathed in Glory, and seated on the throne with the second Man, the last Adam.

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Rev. 3:21 *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*

I Thes. 5:23 *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.*

- ❖ During Christ's first advent, the kingdom of the heavens was being offered to the Jews. When John the Baptist, Jesus, and His disciples appeared to Israel with the message, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (cf. **Matt. 3:1-2; 4:17; 10:5-7**), there could be NO mistake concerning exactly what was meant. There was NO kingdom connected with the heavens and the earth outside of the one which God had established in the beginning, the one over which a disqualified provincial angel ruled (**we will come back to this**)

Mat. 3:1 *In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"*

Mat. 4:17 *From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven [c]is at hand."*

Mat. 10:5 *These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'*

- ❖ The expression, "the kingdom of the heavens," could ONLY be a reference to the kingdom ruled by Satan and his angels from a heavenly sphere, a kingdom that will one day be ruled by Christ and His co-heirs from the same heavenly sphere.
- ❖ At Christ's first coming — through the ministry of John the Baptist, Himself, the Twelve, and the Seventy — "the kingdom of the heavens" was offered to Israel. Had Israel accepted the offer, ONLY one thing could have occurred. Christ would have taken the kingdom; and Israel, with the nation's Messiah, would have held the scepter. BUT, Israel spurned the offer, and the nation climaxed this rejection by crucifying the central Person making the offer — Messiah Himself.
- ❖ THEN, the Book of Acts details a re-offer of the kingdom of the heavens to Israel — beginning on the day of Pentecost (2:1ff) and terminating about thirty years later with Paul in Rome (28:28).
Acts. 28:28 *"Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!"*
- ❖ Israel though AGAIN spurned the offer, and during this period God began His work of calling out the one new man "in Christ" to one day occupy the heavenly positions in the kingdom which Israel had rejected. And once Israel's rejection in the re-offer of the kingdom reached a terminal point in God's eyes, he set the nation aside and, with respect to the kingdom of the heavens, turned His attention completely toward the new entity, the new creation "in Christ."

Mat. 21:43 *"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.*

- From this scripture, the kingdom of God taken from them and the kingdom of heaven offered to them are one and the same. It is also evident that FRUIT-BEARING in relation to THE KINGDOM is in view throughout.

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- ❖ This is how the four gospels lead into the Book of Acts and how Acts leads into the epistles, with Acts forming a bridge between the gospels and the epistles. As stated at the beginning, the gospels record the original offer of this kingdom to Israel, Acts records the re-offer of this kingdom to Israel (as well as recording the Church being brought into existence), and the epistles record the subsequent (the present) offer being extended to Christians.
- ❑ Please note: There can be no such thing as properly understanding the gospels, Acts, or the epistles apart from “the kingdom” being seen as central.

- ❖ Christ’s death on Calvary, effecting man’s redemption, has to do with the kingdom. Christ Himself, while enduring the sufferings surrounding Calvary, looked beyond these sufferings to the glory which lay out ahead.

Heb. 12:1 *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Luke 24:26 *Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?”*

- ❖ The coming kingdom, the Messianic Era, the time during which Christ and His co-heirs will exercise power and authority over the earth for 1,000 years, was that upon which Christ focused His attention while paying the price for man’s redemption. And it is this SAME kingdom upon which He has instructed redeemed man — in the midst of trials, testing and sufferings — to focus his attention as well.

1 Pet. 2:21 *For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:*

- ❖ Man’s redemption is inseparably connected with the coming kingdom of Christ. And though man’s redemption is eternal in duration and connected with a continuing regality in the eternal ages beyond the Messianic Era, this is NOT where Scripture places the emphasis. The central focus in Scripture pertaining to man’s present redemption and future rule centers on the 1,000-year Messianic Era, the Seventh Day. (**cf. Col. 1:20-29**).
- Mat. 6:33** *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...”*

Deut. 6:23 *Then He brought us out from there that He might bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers. 24 And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day. 25 Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the LORD our God, as He has commanded.*

- ❖ Scripture though CENTERS on man and the province which man was created to rule [the earth, with its heavenly sphere]. Scripture CENTERS around Christ and His co-heirs occupying the present kingdom of the heavens and taking 1,000 years to bring order out of the present disorder.

Heb. 2:5 *For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels...*

Luke 4:5 *Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory;*

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for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 7 Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."

Rev.11:15 *Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"*

1Cor.15:24 *Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 27 For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.*

- ❖ Thus, the CENTRAL purpose presented in Scripture surrounding man's redemption is that man might ultimately occupy the position for which he was created — to rule and reign over this earth.
- ❖ This is something which CANNOT be overemphasized. And to speak of man's redemption apart from the purpose pertaining to man's creation, which resulted in his fall, necessitating his redemption, is to fail to see and understand the complete Biblical scope of redemption.
- ❖ What is 'seeking the kingdom of God'? Seeking for a position with Christ on His throne in the age to come.
- ❖ This is the greatest thing God has ever designed for redeemed man, for it has to do with placing redeemed man in the heavens during the coming age as co-heir with His Son, Whom God has "appointed Heir of all things" (cf. Rom. 8:14-19; Heb. 1:2,14).
- ❖ Since our focus will be the nation of Israel as we begin a new series, we will understand better why the offer had to be extended to them first and not the Gentiles. Remain diligent and be blessed!

Questions:

1. In (Gen. 1:26-28), God created the man and the woman to rule. Why did Satan deceive them?
2. How do we understand Rev. 11:15 as far as the second Adam is concerned and what part do we play in this?
3. What comparison can we make between Luke 4:5-7 and Rev.11:15?
4. During Christ's first coming, what would have happened if Israel had accepted the offer extended to them?
 - a) What would have happened to us /Gentiles?
5. We know that they rejected the offer and crucified their Messiah. What happened with that offer of the kingdom of the heavens?
6. Why did Christ endure suffering?
 - a. From 1 Pet. 2:21 "For to this you were called..." To what are we called?
7. When Christ and His co-heirs take on the ruler ship, which scripture did we look at of what will take place?