

Priorities, Provisions, and Pleasures

Matthew 6:32-33

Pastor Kelly Larsen

- I. Seeking first God's kingdom and righteousness.
 - a. What is the kingdom of God, and what does it mean to seek it?
 - b. What is God's righteousness, and what does it mean to seek it?
 - c. What is the difference between seeking God's *kingdom* and seeking His *righteousness*?
 - d. We all might agree that God's Kingdom should be our top priority in life, but what other values do we find creeping into the place of top priority?
 - e. How would your life look different if you proactively sought to let the rule and reign of God shape every corner?
 - f. Read Romans 8:28-29. What is the good thing that God is surely working, through all circumstances, in the lives of all His beloved children? What does this say about God's priorities for your life?
- II. God's provision of "all these things" to those seeking His kingdom and righteousness.
 - a. What are "all these things" that Jesus says will be added to those who seek first His kingdom and His righteousness? What in the text helps you know this?
 - b. Why do we need "these things"?
 - c. Are there value differences among the things that God provides? What kinds of things does God value most? How do you know?
 - d. Why is it comforting to know that God knows what you need? What will happen if you do not believe this?

- III. Thinking about and treating “all these things” that God provides.
- a. To what two extremes have Christians gone in terms of enjoying the things God provides in this life? By which of these extremes are you more tempted?
 - b. What is God's attitude toward His people and pleasure? Where do we see this in the Bible?
 - c. If God is a good king, what will this say about what He provides? What will this say about how He would want you to think about or treat His provisions?
 - d. How do the pleasures of this world compare/contrast with the pleasures that Christians are meant to experience?
- IV. Practical Applications:
- a. Talk about your priorities. Are there any changes that you need to make in your day to day life to align yourself with the priority of "seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness"?
 - b. Knowing that God promises to provide for all of the essential needs (and more) for those who "seek first His kingdom and His righteousness", how does this speak to our inclination toward anxiety?
 - c. Does God want you to be happy and/or experience joy? (see Psalm 16:11). How should this knowledge shape our daily and life pursuits as Christians?