

finding your CENTER

FINDING HIS KINGDOM

WEEK 2

NOTES

WARM-UP

- Tell us about one of your passions. What do you do to pursue this passion?
- Recall a time when you had to choose between two important things. What choice did you make, and how did you choose?

WORD

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

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17

The kingdom of God is described by biblical scholars and theologians as an “upside-down kingdom.” This is because the mindset and the ways of the kingdom of God are so different and often even opposite from the mindset and ways of the world. The kingdom far supersedes the kingdom of the world and darkness. Our minds and hearts are to be aligned with God’s kingdom, so that we will know the life God wants us to experience.

1. WE ARE CALLED TO SEEK GOD’S KINGDOM AND RIGHTEOUSNESS FIRST.

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

Instead of being overly anxious about worldly things, King Jesus tells us to first pursue God’s kingdom and right standing before Him. These are both found and experienced through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the way and door into God’s kingdom (John 14:6; 10:7–9). Faith in Him is how we receive God’s righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus is also the way for us to experience the blessings of God’s kingdom here in this life and for eternity. As we seek to have right standing before God and advance His kingdom here on earth, Jesus promised that God will meet our other earthly needs as well. What is the importance of the word “first”? Why should we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness?

2. WE ARE COMMISSIONED TO ADVANCE GOD'S KINGDOM.

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17

Seeking Jesus first and being driven by His purpose makes us wise in life and in our work. When we seek Him and His ways with all of our hearts and He is first and center in everything, we experience being led by His Spirit.

Having King Jesus reign in the lives of people and in different spheres of life is of immensely great value. His ways are infinitely better than the corrupt systems of this world. Imagine what the lives of people, our society, and our nation would be like if Jesus was recognized and followed as King. Imagine how it will look when there are a lot of people whose lives have been transformed by God. Why do you think it is worth our everything to see His kingdom come and advance on earth just as it already is in heaven?

APPLICATION

- In what area of your life would you like to experience God's kingdom and way of life more? What can you do to entrust this to Him and obey Him this week?
- How might your priorities in life need to be adjusted? Do you want to stop pursuing worldly wealth and start seeking God first? Ask someone to pray with you as you put your faith in Jesus Christ.
- What promises in the Scriptures can you hold on to today? Do you believe God will fulfill them?

PRAYER

- Ask God for the grace to seek Him first all the time, no matter where the world leads you. Pray to be reminded daily of what truly matters: pursuing God's kingdom and having right standing before Him.
- Pray that your life would be an example of what it means to seek God first. Pray for your family and friends who don't know Christ yet to put their trust in Him.



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