



Priority (6:19 – 7:27)

Kingdom Priorities

Matthew 6: 19 – 34

- In 6:10 Jesus tells us to pray for Kingdom to come on the earth and to begin by welcoming the Kingdom into our own lives.
- God’s Kingdom comes when we accept him as the only true King, renouncing every pretender.
- He calls us to start with money which is one of these pretenders.
- Money (wealth) can be a false god so Jesus helps by personifying it as *Mammon*.
- Early Christians were very obedient and generous, giving up what they had without complaint.
 - ❖ The Bible is very easy to understand but as Christians we pretend not to understand it as we know that when we do we will have to live accordingly, (*Soren Kierkegaard*).

| <u>Jesus</u> | <u>Mammon</u> |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Calls us to let his Kingdom ‘ruin’ our lives so he can free us from the stronghold of Mammon. - Restores our long-distance vision. - Calls us to throw away earthly treasures for the sake of heaven’s true treasure. - Tells us to give generously. - Urges us to be <i>good-eyed</i> as how we look at possessions infects or disinfects the whole of our lives. - Warns that greed corrupts a person from the inside out; 13:22. - Teaches us contentment even when we are poor. - Tells us to trust. - Rely on God’s promise that, <i>‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you...’</i> - Gives us the greater reason not to worry; vs31. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Calls us to be short-sighted. - Want us to focus on the things of the world, forgetting that they rust decay and get stolen. - Calls us to be greedy. - Fools the world that a little more will satisfy. - Calls us to worry. - Lusts to replace God as source of security. - Hopes to enslave the world with chains of worry. |

- What worries us, masters us and worry saps our energy and yields nothing; it is the opposite of faith.
- Work hard, live simply, give generously to help the needy and spread the Gospel.
- Costly for us BUT was even more costly for Jesus who *‘was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor.’*

Lord, send your Revolution, start with me.

Kingdom Vigilance

Matthew 7:1 – 15

- Satan wants to terminate us – he uses pride which has a million different disguises.
 - Those who have accepted Jesus know that they must walk in a path of humility.
 - Satan uses charming disguises of pride to start up on us undetected;-
1. Success or failure
 - When you succeed, have pride and are tempted towards self-congratulation and praise.
 - We often miss the subtle attack in disappointment and defeat.

“Boasting is the response of pride to success. Self-pity is the response of pride to suffering... Boasting is the voice of pride in the heart of the strong. Self-pity is the voice of pride in the heart of the weak... Boasting sounds self-sufficient. Self-pity sounds self-sacrificing. The reason self-pity does not look like pride is that it appears to be needy. But the need arises from a wounded ego... The need self-pity feels does not come from a sense of unworthiness, but from a sense of unrecognized worthiness. It is the response of unapplauded pride.”

John Piper

- Satan believes Jesus’ promises that meekness and poverty of spirit will inherit the Kingdom of Heaven therefore terminates our potential through pride using any disguise to penetrate our defenses.
2. Disagreements
 - Matthew 5 vs. 23 – 26
God is not interested in receiving prayers and worship until we have apologised to people we have wronged.
 - When we have wronged, we say sorry, however if we are right and have been offended, we must accept apology and forgive, not letting pride grab a hold of us.
 - Matthew 6 vs. 14 – 15
Forgive men, then the Father will forgive you, if not then the Father will not forgive you.
 - We need to be humble before God and so can’t be proud to others at some time.
 3. Judgmentalism
 - Matthew 7 vs. 1 – 5
 - Christians are good at spotting wrong and wickedness. This is good as shown in chapter 6 when we see pagans and Pharisees at their worship.
 - Jesus wants us to be discerning and confront one another over sins and misdemeanors as instructed in 18:15-17.

❖ When pride dresses up as discernment it turns into the sin of judgmentalism!

Discerning Christians = witnesses to brothers, warning them lest they fall.
Judgmental Christians = play judge a role which belongs to God alone.

- When we judge, we forget we are also human and so are no better.
- Jesus wants us to help others but not at the expense of being terminated ourselves.
- He will use same measure of judgment we use on others, on us!

We must be vigilant of pride.

‘God opposes the proud and shows grace to the humble.’ James 4:6

Kingdom Decision

Matthew 7:13 – 27

- Kingdom of heaven is about knowing God and Jesus; it's not about rules and religion.
 - On Judgment Day, those who embraced the trappings of the Kingdom didn't know the King therefore will be turned away.
 - To truly follow Jesus is to give up everything to be where He is and walk the road He is walking.
 - Narrow road versus broad road.
 - The invitation is to pass through the narrow door of salvation which is too tight to fit all baggage → Matthew 8:21 – 22; 9:16-17.
 - Some people appear to be 'Christians' but are really 'wolves in sheep's clothing'. God knows their hearts are devoid of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ By their fruit you will know them as only those with the Holy Spirit can produce Holy Spirit fruit.
- Jesus warns them to repent and truly follow him otherwise are thrown into hell.
 - Even people, who prophesied, drove out demons and did miracles; Jesus said he never knew them.
 - Judas Iscariot worked alongside Jesus and the disciples and yet went to destruction as his heart resisted Jesus.
- ❖ Experiencing God's power is different to knowing God's son.
- Agreeing with teachings doesn't make you a follower – true belief results in actions.
- ❖ No one can be saved by their obedience but nor can anyone be saved without obedience as faith that saves you always produces fruit according to the will of God.
- There is no such thing as 'invisible conversion'; therefore live differently.
 - Pretend following and lifeless ministry looks like Christianity but it is a weak form which inoculates against real Christianity and whole-heartedly following God.
 - God is encouraging us not to be satisfied with the weak BUT to be carriers of contagious Kingdom.