

SEEK YE FIRST

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Notes for song devotional “Seek Ye First”.

The next page (page 2 of notes) is an outline. It can be copied and handed out as people come in. This was done on a Sunday evening with different men reading each of the different parts. I did the introduction, reading of Matt. 6:33, read the slide with the six parts to be talked about, conclusion and invitation.

Program

Sing, “Seek Ye First”

Opening Prayer

Put up first power point slide and read, Matthew 6:33

Put up second slide and with the six parts, read each one as they come up on the screen.

Make next ppt. slide to advance one point at a time. When you put up “A PRINCIPLE – SEEK” the man who reads that section comes up and reads their part.

Now, advance to “A PEOPLE – YE” next man comes up reads his part and so on. When the last part is read, “A PROMISE...” you will come up and make the concluding remarks. Just before you offer the invitation put up the last slide.

Invitation song is “Seek Ye First”.

Lord’s Supper (if on a Sunday)

Closing Song

Prayer

Feel free to adapt this lesson to your needs.

SEEK YE FIRST

SONG: #833 – SEEK YE FIRST

PRAYER

LESSON

INTRODUCTION

A PRINCIPLE - SEEK

A PEOPLE - YE

A PRIORITY - FIRST

A PLACE - THE KINGDOM OF GOD

A PATTERN - HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

A PROMISE - ALL THINGS WILL BE ADDED TO YOU

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION

SONG: #833 – SEEK YE FIRST

LORD'S SUPPER (IF SUNDAY NIGHT)

CLOSING SONG

PRAYER

SEEK YE FIRST

INTRODUCTION

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said in Matthew 6:19-34 that we should not lay up for ourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust corrupts and thieves break through and steal. Instead, Jesus said we are to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven where moths and rust does not corrupt and thieves do not break through and steal.

A natural question that arises from such teaching is, “How are we to provide for ourselves?” Well Jesus goes on to answer that question by saying, *“Therefore do not worry, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’...For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.”* (Matt.6:31)

Jesus had just said, *“...Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?”* (Matt. 6:28-30)

Jesus is trying to point out that to worry about these things is pointless and a waste of time. Instead of worrying about our physical needs we should be more concerned about our spiritual needs. That is why Jesus goes on to say in verse 33, *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”*

Jesus is not saying that we should not work or provide for ourselves. For in II Thess. 3:10 it says, *“For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”* So it is right to work and provide for ourselves and our families. What Jesus is saying is that we must have our priorities straight. Too many people spend all their time working, worrying and laying up treasures here on earth, instead of working, putting everything in God’s hands and laying up treasures in heaven! Remember, Jesus did not say God would provide what we WANT but what we NEED! We need to learn what the Apostle Paul learned in Phil. 4:11 when he said, *“...I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.”*

Let’s look at Matthew 6:33 a little closer and see what lessons we can learn that will help us put our complete faith and trust in God.

We will break this verse down into six parts:

1. Principle
2. People
3. Priority
4. Place
5. Pattern
6. Promise

SEEK YE FIRST

A PRINCIPLE - SEEK

The “seeking” in this verse is personal. Jesus is commanding each one of us to SEEK! This is not a casual seeking but a strong desire with perseverance such as we read about in Luke 15:4-9. In this passage we read about two parables. The first one says, *“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.”*

Then the second parable states, *“What woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!’”*

We learn from these two parables that we are to seek until we find what we are looking for. In Matthew 7:7-8 Jesus said, *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”* Seeking is an attitude of determination, perseverance, not giving up.

Ezra had the proper attitude toward God’s law. In Ezra 7:10 it says, *“...Ezra had **prepared his heart** to seek the Law of the Lord...”*. Then in Deuteronomy 4:29 we read, *“...you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him **if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.**”* We must seek God with all of our heart and soul. Are you diligently seeking God with all your heart and soul and putting Him first in your life?

SEEK YE FIRST

A PEOPLE - YE

Ye, that means YOU and ME! Jesus is speaking directly to each one of us. In reality, He is speaking to everyone who worries about their own personal needs before they ever consider God. If you have you ever worried about your physical needs such as, is this job going to last, did I make the right business decision or will I have enough money to pay the bills, then Jesus is speaking to YOU!

God wants to have a personal relationship with every one of us. And if we allow God to be first in our lives *“we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”* Romans 8:28.

God wants you to personally partake of His divine nature. II Peter 1:3-4 says, *“As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”*

God has chosen you, *“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”* I Peter 1:9.

God also wants you to remember that, *“We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”*

God is calling you. He says, “You seek Me first!”

God is waiting, are YOU SEEKING Him?

SEEK YE FIRST

A PRIORITY - FIRST

First means first. It doesn't mean second, fifth or any other place on our list of priorities. God has always demanded that He comes first!

The first command in the Ten Commandments is, *"You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God."* Exodus 20:3-5.

Everything that we have and own belongs to God and He expects us to give the best that we have. In Exodus 23:19 the people of Israel were told, *"The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God."*

And Proverbs 3:9 says, *"Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase."*

God must be first in our lives. We must seek Him before our jobs, money, possessions, friends, family and even ourselves.

The rich young ruler in Luke 18:22-23 was told to, *"Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me. But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich."* The young man did not put Jesus first in his life because he had more love for his riches than for Jesus.

In Luke 14:26 Jesus has this to say, *"If you want to be my follower you must love me more than your own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters--yes, even more than your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple."* (New Living Translation)

If God is not first in our lives then that means that we love the things of this world more than God. We can not be friends of the world and love God at the same time.

James 4:4 says, *"...Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."*

So if God is not first in our life then we are an enemy of God. That might seem pretty harsh but that is the truth of the matter. Each one of us has to make the decision whether we will be a friend of God or His enemy. The only way to be His friend is to put God first in our lives. What about you? Have you put God first in your life?

SEEK YE FIRST

A PLACE - THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The kingdom of God is the church, which means the called out ones and the church was built by Jesus Christ.

We read about this in Matthew 16:18-19 when Jesus said, *“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

When we become a child of God, a Christian, God adds us to His church.

Acts 2:47. Colossians 1:13 states it this way, *“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”*

The kingdom of God, the church, is so important to Jesus that He was willing to die for it. Acts 20:28 tells us, *“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”*

How important is the kingdom of God in our lives. Is the church important to us when it is time to assemble with the saints? Hebrews 10:25 tells us we are not to forsake the assemblies of the saints.

Do we remember the church when it comes time to give as we have been prospered as mentioned in I Corinthians 16:1-2?

And do we remember the church in our prayers?

How do we view the church? Is it a place where we can serve others or do we see it as a place where we can be served? We as Christians are to serve others as Philippians 2:3-5 says, *“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”*

If the church is so important that Jesus was willing to die for it, shouldn't it also be first in our lives?

SEEK YE FIRST

A PATTERN - HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

We must seek the righteousness of God and not our own righteousness. Righteousness means being right with God and the only way we can be right with God is to do His will. There are several passages that speak to us about seeking the righteousness of God.

Philippians 3:9 says, *“Be found in Him, not having your own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.”*

Romans 10:3, *“For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”*

Titus 3:4-5, *“But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.”*

The only way we can become righteous is by following the **pattern** and doing the commands found in God's Word. Psalm 119:172 tells us, *“My tongue shall speak of Your word, For all Your commandments are righteousness.”*

The only way we can learn about the righteousness of God is through the study of His Word. Romans 1:16-17 says, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. **For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”** And II Timothy 3:16 tells us that, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, **for instruction in righteousness.**”*

So we see that the gospel is the power of salvation and has been given to us for instruction in righteousness. When we allow the Word of God to guide our lives, we become righteous. Not because of our own deeds but simply because we are obedient to the commands of God and are following God's pattern. Romans 6:17, *“...you obeyed from the heart that **form of doctrine** to which you were delivered.”* II Timothy 1:13 says, *“Hold fast the **pattern** of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”* And I Peter 2:21 tells us, *“For this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an **example**, that you should follow His steps.”*

Are we allowing Jesus to be a pattern for our lives? If not, we should be!

SEEK YE FIRST

A PROMISE - ALL THINGS WILL BE ADDED TO YOU

God always keeps His promises. The promises from man may or may not come about. But we can always count on God to fulfill all of His promises. Titus 1:2, *“Hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.”*

Romans 4:20-21, *“He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”*

Knowing that God can and will keep His promises gives us great assurance. In the context of this passage, we as Christians do not have to worry about life’s daily needs such as food, clothing and shelter because we can ‘*cast all our cares upon Him, because he cares for us*’ as we read about in I Peter 5:7.

Philippians 4:6 tells us, *“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”*

And Hebrews 13:5 says, *“...be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

God will always be with us and will be faithful to deliver all the promises that He has made. But we also need to know that the promises of God are conditional upon our obedience to His commands.

Matthew 7:21 says, *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”*

God has always demanded obedience.

In Leviticus 26:3-4 it says, *“If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.”*

Jesus said in John 8:31, *“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.”*

And Romans 11:22 tells us, *“Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.”*

Before we can receive the promises of God we must seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

What about you, are you putting God first in your life?

SEEK YE FIRST

CONCLUSION

Matthew 6:33, *“Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”*

This one verse teaches us so much about what God wants, desires and expects of us.

In the study of this verse we have learned that there is:

A Principle - Seek

1. Seek is a command not an option.
2. Not a casual seeking but diligent, whole heart seeking.

A People - Ye

1. That means YOU! Each one of us is responsible for our own relationship with God. We do not have to answer for anyone else's actions and they do not have to answer for ours.
2. II Cor. 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

A Priority - First

1. Top priority. God will not accept second place. God is first in our lives before our jobs, money, possessions, friends, family and even ourselves. Not easy but must be done.

A Place - The Kingdom of God

1. This is the body of Christ, the church. Jesus died for it. In reality, the church is the people of God, Christians. Jesus died for us. Therefore, we should put the kingdom of God first in our lives.

A Pattern - His Righteousness

1. Through His Word, God has given us a pattern to follow. God has given us commands and by following those commands we are able to enjoy a relationship with Him.

A Promise - All Things Will Be Added

1. Then, when we have done what God has commanded He will fulfill His promise of providing the things that we need. Each one of us needs to examine our lives to see if we are in a right relationship with God by ‘seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.’ If you are not a Christian then you have that opportunity now. If you are a Christian but have not been putting God first in your life now is the time to renew your commitment to Him.