



The Law of Putting God First

“...seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

There are specific laws in the earth that we have to obey in order to live peaceably on this earth. In the same way, there are also laws in the spiritual realm that govern the Kingdom of God, and if these “Kingdom” laws are cooperated with properly, they will be a blessing to you.

In this article, we are going to look at the most important Kingdom law – the law of putting God first. It’s found in Matthew 6:33 where Jesus tells us, “...seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” You must put God first in your life, daily. You do that by patterning your life after the Word of God, and esteeming the Word above everything else in your life. As a result, increase will come, and it will bless your life.

What happens when we don’t put God first in our lives? Notice this account from Luke 14:16-20, “Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to



those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper... If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." The word "hate" in verse 26 actually means "to love less than." You must put the people and things in your life secondary to God or you cannot truly be His disciple.

Let's look at two more reasons why God becomes second place in some people's lives. The first is found in II Timothy 4:10, "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present

ther do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:25-33)

make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come."

Jesus is teaching us a very important lesson here. A great supper had been prepared for those who had been invited. All they had to do was come and partake. But each one had an excuse for why he couldn't come, and, as a result, they missed out on what had been provided for them. In the same way, God is wanting to fellowship with you, but if He's not first in your life, you'll find yourself making excuses for why you can't spend time in His Word and in fellowship with Him. You'll miss out on what He wants to add to you.

What are things that people put ahead of God? According to Luke 14:18-19, people often put possessions before God. In Luke 14:19, we see that the man said he bought oxen and he wanted to go test them out. It was just another excuse. When you get blessed with things, make sure you keep your possessions in the right perspective. What God has blessed you with shouldn't become an excuse for not spending time with Him. Jesus cautions us regarding this in Luke 16:13, "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." In other words, if you love something more than you love God, you will begin to despise and mock the things of God; you will start to despise what once was so precious to you.

In Luke 14:20, the man used his marriage as an excuse. This represents relationships. Your marriage, or any relationship, should never go before God. The only way your marriage will be successful is if God is first place. Notice Luke 14:22-26, "... For I say unto you, That none of

"If you've identified areas where God's not been first in your life, today is the day to make the adjustment."

world..." This scripture says that Demas loved the world more than he loved the things of God.

And in Philippians 2:19-21, we find that people were seeking their own interests, looking out for themselves instead of seeking the Kingdom of God, "... For I have no man like-minded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's."

Purpose in your heart not to go the way of the examples we just looked at. God has a better way! Notice what He said would be added unto you if you seek Him first, "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, nei-

Are You Putting God First?

Ask yourself the following questions. In answering them, you'll be able to identify whether or not you are putting God first in these key areas of your life.

Your Time - Do you spend time with God every day, and does that time take priority over everything and everyone else?

Your Pursuits - Do your personal pursuits line up with the plan of God for your life?

If you are pursuing areas God doesn't want you involved in, then your time is a waste, and your efforts are futile.

Your Possessions - If God told you to give something away, would you do it, no matter how hard you worked for it?

If you realize God has blessed you with your possessions, then you won't have a problem giving them away. Blessings shouldn't become things that possess you.

Obedience - Are you a doer of the Word, and are you doing what God has told you to do?

Isaiah 1:19 tells us, "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land."

Increase God's Way

God's laws of increase will not work for you if God is not the first One you seek after. If you've identified areas where God's not been first in your life, today is the day to make the adjustment.

Seek God first in the area of your time, and you'll find that He'll help you manage your time well. Pursue those things that line up with God's plan for your life, and your pursuits will be profitable. See God as your Provider, and He will bless you with the desires of your heart. Be willing and obedient to seek after God in every area of your life and you'll eat the good of the land.

Put God first and increase God's way!