

First Things First

Jesus, our Lord said, *“But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”*. Matthew 6:33 (ASV) Have you given much thought to that verse? In what we call the ‘Sermon on the Mount’, Jesus spoke these words to those who were gathered together that day. This exhortation was given as Jesus encouraged the people to be more concerned with the spiritual side of life than the physical.

Food, clothing and shelter are surely things that we are concerned with today. We need food to live, we need clothing to properly clothe ourselves, (although some don’t worry about such things as being properly dressed, but we’ll save that topic for another day). We also need adequate shelter to protect ourselves from the elements and sadly from others who might want to do us harm. In those respects, we are no different from those Jesus spoke to that day on the mountain side. So, I guess the question we should ask ourselves is, “Just how do we do it”? How do we continually and successfully put God and His kingdom and His righteousness before the things we so desperately need here on earth?

Surely it has to do with manner of life. Do we live our lives in accordance with God’s will and His commandments? Do we live our lives so that our actions reflect the positive influence of God in our daily routine? Do we live so that everyone who knows us can tell, without doubting, that we are followers of Jesus Christ? How would you answer those simple questions about your life? Are you actively seeking God’s kingdom? What must you do in order to find it? If you found it, would you recognize it?

Daniel prophesied in days of old, *“In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.* (Daniel 2:44). The kings Daniel referred to ruled the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek and Roman empires. That time has passed centuries ago. Jesus spoke of the kingdom also when He said, “Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.” (Mark 9:1) The kingdom is here and now. Have you found it?