

“DO GOD’S KINGDOM WITH LIFE, DON’T FANCY IT WITH MIND!”

*“But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33)*

(To The Folk At Romphrakhun Baptist Church, Whom I Love...)

This verse comes out from the context of instruction of being free from worry. Human life after the Fall is worrisome. However, worry is against trust; and without trust God’s people cannot both approach and access his blessings. Instead of trusting in God, many keep trusting in others, resulting chaos in their lives. God’s instruction for the issue is clear:

“⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

The bottom line of seeking God is a trust in Him “with all your heart”. “All your heart”, not “part your heart”, therefore “all” or “part” will matter the whole issue!

I. A BRIEF EXPLANATION

Scripture makes this truth clear by stating, *“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart”* (Jeremiah 29:13). Many Christians think they are fulfilling this requirement, but they fail the tests that God uses to confirm His Lordship.

Every Kingdom has a territorial jurisdiction. Territory of God’s Kingdom can be both visible and invisible, and His jurisdiction should be establish in both cases. In Christ’s future Kingdom, He will exercise His authority over all the nations of the earth. It will be fully visible. In His present Kingdom, the lives of those who follow Him should be reigned invisibly with His power. He wants to have jurisdiction over all the areas of our hearts.

We will seek Christ’s Kingdom in vain until we seek Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength:

“⁵Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶These commandments that I give you today are upon your hearts” (Deuteronomy 6:5-6).

The word “seek” in Hebrew is “*baqash*” which means “require, request, demand something because of the extreme desire to secure it”. This word is used 276 times in OT. People will not seek God if they don’t desire God. People will not seek God if their desire of God is not strong enough to secure God. Whenever people desire to secure God they will not allow anything to damage His things in their lives. When people desire to secure God they will be afraid of nothing but God. When people desire to secure God they will dedicate their lives for His sake. When people truly desire to secure God the indications of their commitment to Him and boldness for Him should be expressed in every way at any time. They will always be for Him and against what is against Him.

A hotel owner learned that a friend was near death, so he visited him and told him about the eternal life that Jesus offers. Soon after, the hotel owner was invited to become a member of the board of directors of his hotel chain. He told the members of the board how honored he was to be offered such a position but that he probably would not qualify for three reasons. First, he was a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, his family was a greater priority to him than his hotel; and third, he based every decision on the principles of Scripture.

The board replied, “We have discussed these issues, and it is because of them that we want you to be a member of the board”. This man later became vice president of one of the largest hotel chains in the United States. How did these opportunities come about? The friend to whom he had witnessed was a member of the board; before he died he had strongly recommended that this Christian man take over his position.

What urged this man to go sharing Christ with his near death friend? What made this little hotel owner to reject such a generous offer? What was in his heart when he made those excuses to the board of a large hotel chain? Is this an indication of a quick and firm stance of living what he believes?

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Years ago a friend of mine was required to deny his faith in Christ by the local government. He was a teacher in a public school and they don’t want him to have faith in God because their basic doctrine is the tri-nos: (1) A Person should have no religion, (2) A person should not belong to a family, and (3) A person should take himself beyond his own country’s boundary in order to achieve the communism ideology. They placed him before a choice: (1) If he remains his faith in Christ he will be dismissed from the teachership, considered as an anti-revolutionary element which will endanger him in unpredictable troubles later on, or (2) If he deny Christ he will be promoted to a higher office of the local governmental system. He’d struggled with that quite a bit and made a badly poor decision of denying Christ in order to seek a job promotion. After informing his decision a few days he received the ultimate decision from the local authority of dismissing him from the teachership! The poor man was so upset, he made an appeal to them and then he received their explanation that they cannot trust him. They explained their doubt that if he can deny a God that he once believed that He died for him on the Cross, what on the world can assure that he will not deny them who just give him a job?

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Instead of living his faith as God instructed, this man feared men. He confessed the faith but did not live the faith. He confessed the Lordship of God but he let the lordship of man to take control his life. Losing his job was not the issue, the eventual consequence will be much more severe than that:

“If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in His Father’s glory with the holy angels” (Mark 8:38).

II. A PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Many have asked me why they cannot fully experience the Kingdom of God in their lives. Their question is that why God’s Kingdom seems something so dim to see and so far to reach in this world... Many people have asked and many questions have been asked... One possible answer is that they have not acknowledged Christ in all their ways. I believe that instead of doubting the certainty of God’s Kingdom they should doubt their faith in Him. It would be better for us to ask ourselves if we *“Love the Lord OUR God with all OUR heart and with all OUR soul and with all OUR strength. These commandments that HE give*

US IN THE BIBLE are upon OUR hearts”? It would be even more better for us if we think of that issue in a practical and applicable way by meditating His teaching:

“¹³You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:13-16).

Think of this urgently and practically! My challenge to you this morning is to encourage you to take action promptly and practically for...

- (1) Being a living example of Christ’s way of life;
- (2) Taking advantage of opportunities to tell others about Jesus;
- (3) Thanking God for your meal in a public place (such as a restaurant, a home banquet,...);
- (4) Giving a ready answer when people question your faith;
- (5) Praying boldly in the name of Jesus before groups;
- (6) Having a testimony prepared to share what God is doing in your life;
- (7) Expressing grief when others misuse Jesus’ name;
- (8) ...

It’s not as easy to do those things because the fear of man in us is unavoidable. However, we should put that fear in a proper perspective:

“If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His Father’s glory with the holy angels” (Mark 8:38).

“We fear men so much, because we fear God so little” (William Gurnall). And, we see God’s Kingdom so dim and sense it so far because His will is still apart from our hearts.

In the book “My Heart, Christ’s Home” (Robert Boyd Munger), the author uses the illustration of a house to symbolize the compartments of our hearts and suggests an examination of each room.

The recreation room symbolizes the types of friends we have and the activities in which we choose to participate. The study room represents the types of books, magazines, and other input we take into our minds. The dining room reveals our appetites and desires. The bedroom exposes the level of our moral purity. The closets indicate unconfessed sin that we are holding on to. We may put a sign on our hearts stating, “God Is The Head Of This Home” but does He have control of all of the rooms?

In order to “*seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness*” we must understand that God wants to be Lord of every part of our lives. Many Christians may will sing out loud about Christ being “Lord of all” but in practice they reserve the right to make their own decisions in areas such as clothing, movies, television, the use of time, friends, and music.... However, God wants us to honor Him in all the areas of our lives and to base our decisions on His Word. Whenever we have such a new life, we will experience God’s power and His Kingdom in our own lives:

“For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power” (1Corinthians 4:20).

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(Bangkok, 10Jul07)