KING'S HOUSE- Gloria Daoud
Seek First The Kingdom Of God | Matthew 6:

Matthew 6:33 — Daniel: Seeking God in the Present, Seeing His Kingdom to Come

Primary biblical examples: Daniel 1, Daniel 6, and Daniel 9–12

When we seek God first, He shapes our character, sustains our faithfulness, gives wisdom according to His will, and directs our hope toward His everlasting kingdom.

To understand what the Kingdom of God means, how we seek it in our everyday life, and how Daniel's pursuit of God prepared him to receive revelations concerning God's rule, the coming kingdom, and the end of the age.

I. THE PRIORITY: SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Matthew 6:33

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." — Matthew 6:33, KJV

A. What Does It Mean to Seek First?

1. Jesus does not tell us merely to believe that God exists. He calls us to make God's kingdom and righteousness our **first priority**.
2. To seek means to pursue, desire, and direct our attention toward something. Seeking God is an intentional pursuit of His will, His Word, His presence, and His purposes.
3. The word ***first*** speaks of **priority.** God is not supposed to be the last person we turn to after we have exhausted every other option.
4. Seeking God first means allowing His authority to govern our decisions, our relationships, our work, our finances, and our daily conduct.
5. Jesus gives this command in the context of teaching about worry over food, drink, clothing, and the necessities of life. He calls His followers away from anxiety-driven living and toward trust in their heavenly Father.

B. What Is the Kingdom of God?

The Kingdom of God is God's rule, authority, and sovereign reign. It is not merely a physical location or a religious organization.

1. **God is the King.** Psalm 103:19 — The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all. His authority extends over all creation.
2. **God's kingdom transforms the lives of those who submit to Him.**
   Romans 14:17 — The kingdom of God is characterized by righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. We seek His righteousness by living under His Word and allowing His will to shape our character.
3. **God's kingdom was revealed through the ministry of Jesus Christ.**
   Mark 1:14–15. Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel. Jesus proclaimed the kingdom and called people to repent and believe the gospel.
4. **God's kingdom will ultimately be revealed in its fullness.** Earthly kingdoms are temporary, but God's kingdom will never be destroyed.
   Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a **kingdom** which **shall never be destroyed**; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it **shall stand forever**.

C. Three Dimensions of the Kingdom

- **God's sovereign rule:** God reigns over all creation, whether people acknowledge Him or not. (Psalm 103:19) “The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all.”
- **God's present rule in our lives:** We submit to Christ, pursue righteousness, and live as citizens of His kingdom. Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- **God's coming kingdom in fullness:** We look forward to the fulfillment of God's purposes, the judgment of evil, and His everlasting reign. Daniel 7:13–14, 27 I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to **Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom**, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed. Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.’”

D. The Connection to Daniel

Daniel lived in Babylon and Persia, under earthly rulers who possessed tremendous power. Yet Daniel understood that the kings of this world were not the highest authority.

Daniel served earthly kings, but his ultimate allegiance belonged to the King of heaven.

Practical application: Before asking, “What do I want to do?” ask, “What honors God? What does His Word teach? How can I live under His authority in this situation?”

Transition: Daniel's life shows us three powerful ways to seek God's kingdom: through holy convictions, consistent prayer, and a hunger to understand God's Word.

II. FIRST LESSON FROM DANIEL: SEEK GOD FIRST IN YOUR CONVICTIONS

Scripture: Daniel 1:3–21

A. Daniel Was Taken Into a Foreign Kingdom

Daniel was taken from Judah to Babylon during the Babylonian conquest. He was separated from familiar surroundings and placed in a culture that sought to train him for service in the king's court.

Babylon offered Daniel education, opportunity, and access to the royal establishment. But it also presented pressure to adapt to its culture.

Daniel could not control where he lived, but he could determine whom he would honor.

B. Daniel Resolved in His Heart

Daniel 1:8 tells us that Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the king's food and wine.

His faithfulness began with a decision of the heart.

Daniel did not wait until the pressure became unbearable to decide where he stood. He established his conviction and then acted with wisdom and respect.

He requested permission to follow a different diet and proposed a test. God granted him favor with the official responsible for him.

Daniel and his companions were ultimately found to possess wisdom and understanding, and Daniel received understanding concerning visions and dreams.

C. How Does This Demonstrate Seeking God's Kingdom?

1. Daniel placed God's standards above the pressure to conform.
2. He pursued faithfulness without becoming disrespectful or reckless.
3. He served in a pagan government without allowing that government to become his god.
4. His life demonstrates that spiritual conviction and excellence in our responsibilities can exist together.

Daniel's faithfulness did not mean he controlled every outcome. It meant he chose to honor God in the circumstances he was given.

D. Practical Ways We Can Apply This Today

- In the workplace, refuse dishonesty even when dishonesty appears profitable.
- In relationships, maintain biblical convictions while treating people with grace and respect.
- In financial decisions, choose integrity rather than pursuing money at any cost.
- In private life, honor God even when no one else is watching.
- In seasons of opportunity, remember that success is not worth gaining at the expense of obedience.

Supporting Scriptures: Daniel 1:8–17; Romans 12:2; Colossians 3:23–24.

Seeking first the kingdom begins with surrendering our hearts to God's authority before the pressures of life determine our choices.

Daniel's convictions established the direction of his life. His prayer life shows us how he continued to seek God when his faithfulness was tested.

III. SECOND LESSON FROM DANIEL: SEEK GOD FIRST THROUGH PRAYER

Daniel 6:1–28

A. Daniel's Faithfulness Followed Him Into Another Kingdom

By Daniel 6, Babylon's rule had given way to the rule of the Medes and Persians. Daniel continued to serve with distinction.

His fellow officials could find no corruption or negligence in his work. <u>They eventually targeted his devotion to God because they could find no legitimate grounds to accuse him.</u>

Daniel's circumstances had changed, but his spiritual priorities had not.

B. Daniel Continued to Pray

A decree was established prohibiting petitions to any god or person other than King Darius for thirty days.

Daniel knew the decree had been signed. Nevertheless, he went to his house, knelt in prayer three times a day, and gave thanks to God as he had done previously.

Notice the significance of that final detail: Daniel prayed as he had done before.

Prayer was not a desperate experiment he tried only when trouble came. It was an established part of his life.

C. Daniel Was Thrown Into the Lions' Den

Daniel's obedience brought him into conflict with the king's decree. He was thrown into the lions' den, but God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths.

Daniel was preserved, and the king acknowledged the power of Daniel's God.

The lesson is not that faithful believers will always escape danger in the same way. The lesson is that God's authority is greater than the threats of earthly powers, and His people are called to remain faithful to Him.

D. How Does This Demonstrate Seeking God's Kingdom?

Daniel trusted God above the demands of the king.

He continued to pray even when prayer threatened his position and his life.

He demonstrated that God's kingdom must be our priority not only when obedience is easy, but also when obedience is costly.

E. Practical Ways We Can Apply This Today

1. Establish a regular time for prayer rather than waiting for a crisis.
2. Read Scripture consistently so that God's truth shapes your thinking.
3. Pray before making major decisions, and remain willing to obey what Scripture teaches.
4. Continue trusting God when you face opposition, disappointment, or uncertainty.
5. Pray for others, not only for personal protection and provision.

Supporting Scriptures: Daniel 6:10, 22–23; 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18; Philippians 4:6–7.

A consistent private relationship with God prepares us to stand faithfully in public pressure.

Daniel's convictions shaped how he lived, and his prayer life sustained him. But Daniel also devoted himself to understanding God's Word. That pursuit became especially important when God revealed His purposes concerning the future.

IV. THIRD LESSON FROM DANIEL: SEEK GOD THROUGH HIS WORD AND HIS PURPOSES

Scriptures: Daniel 9:1–23; Daniel 10–12

A. Daniel Sought God Through Scripture

In Daniel 9, Daniel was reading the writings of Jeremiah and understood that the desolation of Jerusalem was connected with a period of seventy years.

Daniel did not treat Scripture merely as information. What he learned moved him to prayer.

He humbled himself, fasted, confessed the sins of his people, and pleaded for God's mercy and restoration.

His study of the Word led him to seek the heart and purposes of God.

B. Daniel Prayed for More Than Himself

Daniel's prayer in chapter 9 was focused on the people of God, the condition of Jerusalem, and the fulfillment of God's purposes.

He confessed sin and appealed to God's mercy. He did not approach God as though he deserved special treatment.

While Daniel was praying, Gabriel came to him with understanding.

This shows us that seeking God first is not simply about obtaining personal blessings. It also involves caring about God's purposes and interceding for others.

C. God Revealed More About His Purposes

Daniel 9 contains the prophecy of the seventy weeks, a passage interpreted in different ways by Christian traditions. The prophecy concerns God's purposes for Daniel's people and Jerusalem and includes references to an anointed ruler, the cessation of sacrifice, desolation, and the completion of God's determined purposes.

Daniel 10–12 then records further visions involving conflict among kingdoms, persecution, deliverance, judgment, and resurrection.

God gave Daniel revelations that extended far beyond his immediate circumstances.

D. Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 Point to God's Everlasting Kingdom

Daniel's revelations are not only about earthly kingdoms. They repeatedly direct attention toward the sovereignty of God.

In Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar dreams of a great statue representing successive kingdoms. A stone not cut by human hands strikes the statue, and the stone becomes a great mountain.

Daniel 2:44 explains that God will establish a kingdom that will never be destroyed and will bring the other kingdoms to an end.

In Daniel 7, Daniel sees the Ancient of Days seated in judgment. One like a Son of Man comes with the clouds of heaven and receives dominion, glory, and a kingdom. His dominion is everlasting.

Daniel 7:27 also speaks of the kingdom being given to the people of the Most High.

These visions teach us that earthly rulers and systems are temporary, but God's kingdom is everlasting.

E. Daniel 12 Points Toward the End of the Age

Daniel 12 describes a time of distress, the deliverance of God's people, and the resurrection of the dead.

Daniel 12:2 speaks of those who awaken from the dust of the earth, some to everlasting life and others to shame and everlasting contempt.

Daniel 12:3 describes the wise and those who turn many to righteousness shining like the brightness of the heavens.

Daniel did not receive every detail of the future in a way that satisfied all his questions. He was instructed to go his way until the end.

This reminds us that God may reveal what we need to know while still calling us to trust Him with what we do not fully understand.

F. How Does This Connect to Matthew 6:33?

When we seek God first, we begin to view life through His purposes rather than merely through our immediate circumstances.

Daniel served in earthly kingdoms, but God revealed that those kingdoms would not last forever.

Daniel sought understanding through Scripture and prayer, and God gave him revelations about His coming kingdom and the end of the age.

We must be careful not to claim that every detail of biblical prophecy is easy to interpret. Christians differ on the chronology and some details of Daniel's visions. But the central message is clear: God is sovereign, evil will not have the final word, and His kingdom will endure.

G. Practical Ways We Can Apply This Today

- Read Scripture to know God and obey Him, not merely to collect information.
- Pray for God's will to be accomplished in your family, church, and community.
- Develop an eternal perspective instead of living only for temporary success.
- Study prophecy with humility, paying attention to the biblical text rather than speculation.
- Remain faithful even when you do not understand God's timing or every detail of His plan.

Supporting Scriptures: Daniel 2:44–45; Daniel 7:13–14, 26–27; Daniel 9:2–4, 20–23; Daniel 12:1–3, 13; 2 Timothy 3:16–17.

Teaching point: Seeking God first draws us into His Word, His purposes, and the hope of His everlasting kingdom.

V. HOW DO WE SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM?

Matthew 6:33 is not merely a verse to memorize. It is a principle by which we are called to live.

Daniel gives us three practical examples.

A. Seek God First in Your Convictions

Daniel 1:8 teaches us to establish our hearts in faithfulness.

Ask yourself: Is there an area of my life where I am compromising what I know honors God?

B. Seek God First in Your Prayer Life

Daniel 6:10 teaches us to develop a consistent relationship with God.

Ask yourself: Am I seeking God daily, or do I only seek Him when I need something?

C. Seek God First in His Word and His Purposes

Daniel 9–12 teaches us to study Scripture, pray for God's will, and live with eternity in view.

Ask yourself: Am I allowing God's Word to shape my understanding of life, or am I allowing the world to shape my understanding of God?

D. Remember What Jesus Promised

Jesus taught that the Father knows our needs. Matthew 6:33 calls us to seek His kingdom and righteousness rather than allowing anxiety over material necessities to dominate our lives.

This is not a promise that believers will become wealthy or that every desire will be fulfilled exactly as requested.

It is a call to trust the Father, pursue righteousness, and place His purposes first.

Daniel's life demonstrates that seeking God first may involve hardship, waiting, and opposition. Yet his story also points us to the certainty of God's sovereignty and the hope of His everlasting kingdom.

Supporting Scriptures: Matthew 6:25–34; Psalm 37:3–5; Hebrews 12:28.

VI. CONCLUSION: LIVE FOR THE KINGDOM THAT WILL NEVER END

Daniel's life began with exile, continued through service under changing rulers, and included remarkable experiences of God's wisdom and revelation.

Three lessons stand out:

1. **Daniel 1:** He sought God first through his convictions.
2. **Daniel 6:** He sought God first through consistent prayer.
3. **Daniel 9–12:** He sought God through Scripture and prayer, and God revealed His purposes concerning the coming kingdom and the end of the age.

Daniel did not establish God's kingdom through his own power. He remained faithful to the God who rules over every kingdom.

The same priority Jesus teaches in Matthew 6:33 applies to us today.

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