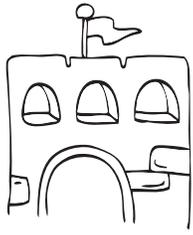


The Kingdom of God



"...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33 NKJV

Matthew 6:33 is one of those pivotal verses that we all seem to know & love to quote. I learned this verse as a church hymn when I was a youngster and I still sing the song today! Recently as I was singing it out, I thought to myself, "Sure, I can quote the verse but what does it really mean to seek God's kingdom and His righteousness first?" Let's seek together, shall we?



This verse is part of Jesus' first recorded teachings. He sat down on a mountainside and began teaching the crowds. Close your eyes & take a moment to imagine you're part of that crowd eagerly anticipating the first teachings of Jesus.

Are we as enthused today to hear the teachings of Jesus as we were when we first heard?

Jesus teaches the crowd to seek God's kingdom first. He then asks them why they worry about their clothes and encourages them not to worry about what they will eat or drink. He then states, "For the pagans run after all these things, and your Heavenly Father knows that you need them."

Pagans worry, children trust. As children of God how should we behave?

Remember, we are children of a good, good Father!

Let's take a deeper look at the definitions of a few of the words from this verse.

seek to covet earnestly, strive after & aim at
↳ yearn to possess ↳ make great efforts to obtain

first first in rank, influence & honor, chief, principal
↳ Are we giving God's kingdom first place in honor & influence in every situation?

kingdom the right of authority to reign & rule, royal power

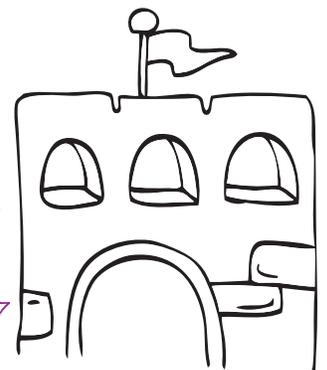
righteousness God's way of doing & being right, attitude & character of God, the state of being acceptable to God
↳ We are made acceptable to God through Jesus Christ!

Now go back and circle the definitions above that stand out to you.

Rewrite Matthew 6:33 using the words you circled above:

Remember, seeking God's kingdom first means in every situation! Not only first thing in the morning but in all the events of your day.

The verse then states that "all these things" will be added unto you. Write what those "things" are inside the castle & flag.



Encourage one another! Take a moment right now to share your Matthew 6:33 rewrite on social media.

The Kingdom of God

Now, we're already halfway done and there's so much more to discover about this amazing verse! Something that I find interesting is that Jesus mentions the Kingdom of Heaven very early on in His ministry. In fact, in my Bible the section is titled "Jesus Begins to Preach" and Jesus' first words under this heading are:

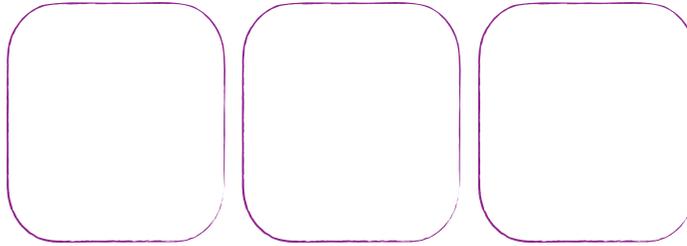
"...Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
Matthew 4:17b

From this point on in the study, we will use the terms "kingdom of God" + "kingdom of Heaven interchangeably.

The words "at hand" mean to bring near or to join one thing to another. Jesus joined Heaven's Kingdom with Earth but even more so, He joined God + man together. ← Selah (pause + calmly think of that)

Let's get creative!

- In Box 1 draw God & Heaven
- In Box 3 draw man & Earth
- In Box 2 draw Jesus joining them together



List ways in which Jesus brought Heaven to Earth:
(See Matthew 4:23)

How beautiful that Jesus brought Heaven + Earth; God and man together. Let's read more about God's kingdom!

"...the kingdom of God is not eating & drinking, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." ^{Romans 14:17b}

We've already explored the definition of righteousness, but let's look at peace and joy.

peace

tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation; harmony, felicity

This verse shows us that the kingdom of God is something more than outward appearances + actions. Are righteousness, peace + joy part of your inner life?

joy

gladness, calm delight, cheerfulness

Here's another verse with insight into God's Kingdom →

"For the Kingdom of God is not in word but in power." ^{1 Cor 4:20}

In this verse we learn that the kingdom of God is not just talk but power to change your life. How is God's kingdom changing your life everyday?



Let's finish up with a call to action...

Jesus prayed in Matthew 6:10, "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

This shows us that the kingdom of God can be released on this earth. But how, you ask? Through you!

"For indeed, the Kingdom of God is within you." ^{Luke 17:21b}

For insight on how to operate under Heaven's rules see Matthew 16:19

God's kingdom came to earth through Jesus and then, through Christ in you! As children of our good, good Father we are privileged to seek (aim at) first (in influence) His kingdom (reign + rule) and His righteousness (His way of doing + being right) and release Heaven on Earth everywhere we go!

As we close, reflect how you will release the Kingdom of heaven on earth today:

Remember, seek first the kingdom of God!