

Getting My Priorities in Order

Luke 12:31

We started our study of Luke on the first Sunday of January 2014 (two and a half years ago) and we are halfway through Luke (a five-year study). Ordinarily we will study several verses of Scripture on a given Sunday, but today we are examining only one. It's the Magna Charta of Christian living. It's the founding document of the Christian faith. It's like the Declaration of Independence for everyone who trusts Christ.

"But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you" (Luke 12:31).

I. Notice the promise Jesus gives - *"and these things will be added to you."*

What are "these things"?

Context – 1. **Basic necessities** (v. 22) - "Do not worry about your life... as to what you will eat."

2. **Material possessions** (v. 23) - "Do not worry about your life ... as to what you will wear."

3. **Future provisions** (v. 24) - "The ravens have no storeroom or barn.. yet God feeds them"

4. **Personal health** (v. 25) - "Who by worrying can add a single hour to your life span?"

This last one doesn't mean I will never be sick; it means I will die the day God appoints.

Jonathan Edwards, to prove God's sovereignty, took a new "small pox" vaccine when he moved to Princeton to become President. Edwards died a month later at 54 years of age.

Our problem is "greed. *My greed is my desire for more than I need.*" There was a man in Luke 12:13 who asked Jesus to tell the eldest brother "to divide the inheritance." Jesus responds very firmly:

"Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you." I showed you why Jesus said this to him.

God is uninterested in changing my hardships until He first changes my heart. God never arbitrates *over me* until He takes authority *in me*. The heart of my problem is always the problem of my heart.

II. Notice the condition Jesus gives – *"But seek His kingdom"*

When you follow "the Way" (Acts 9:1) and become a disciple of Christ by placing your faith in His work (right standing before God) and His words (right living before men), you will have *these things*.

A. **His Kingdom** – "It's the power and reign of Christ in my life and in my world." Everything is His. Therefore, as ambassadors of the King, I'm interested in His glory, His honor, His Word – Him.

Kingdom – "King's Dominion." With possessions, I'm but a steward. With time, I'm a servant. In honor and glory, I'm a son. In standing, I'm a saint. In crisis, I'm a subject of the Sovereign One.

1. The Kingdom is not your church – it's beyond it; hopefully includes it; but is not the sum of it.

2. The Kingdom is not your life – it's beyond it; hopefully includes it; but is not the essence of it.

3. The Kingdom is not your family – it's beyond it; hopefully includes it; but is not the Kingdom.

B. **Seek** – that seems to convey to me the idea that it's lost, and I've got to find it, right? Not at all.

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom" (v. 32).

On those days God allows the outer skies to grow dark, He designs the inner soul to get light.

"When you are down to nothing, God is up to something."

III. Notice the intimacy Jesus gives – *"But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you"*

Christianity is not a spectator sport. The worse thing that happens to God's people is that we turn Sundays into a stage performance where professional, or in the very least, gifted people are those who do "God's work" and God's people come to observe. The Christian life more like a boarding school than a Broadway show. You and I are the students; God is the Headmaster; and the school is life itself. Am I listening to Jesus for the Way to live? Fight greed. Stop worrying. Seek His Kingdom.