

Priorities in 2019

- Based on a prayer meeting recorded
- **Acts 13:1-3 (ESV)** *(1) Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. (2) While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (3) Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.*

Together in prayer and worship

- We must spend time... together seeking the Lord
- They were together - and God moved
- We must come together to seek the Lord
- Currently meeting on Wednesday evenings for prayer

Ministry empowered by the Spirit

- From that gathering, the Spirit called Paul and Barnabas into the mission field
- In 2019 - every believer filled / refilled with the Holy Spirit
- In 2019 - every believer used for ministry in the gifts of the Spirit

Active in the great commission

- Outcome of that prayer meeting - Christianity spread among the entire region
- When the Spirit is using us, we will fulfill the great commission
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Review

- Last week began to look at a very familiar passage
- **Matt 6:33 (ESV)** (33) *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*
- **Note** Homework this week: Read Matt 6, and Psalm 23

The Problem

- Everyone has needs - we live in a physical, natural world
- Provision, healing, etc.
- Problem - we spend our times trying to solve these problems
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God's promise

- God has promised to provide “all these things”
- We talked from Psalm 23 how the Lord knows what we need and like a shepherd provides

The process

- Seek - actively pursue in order to obtain

The priority

- First
- i.e. instead of chasing the other things

Message

Introduction

- This morning, I want to continue to look at the text, focusing in one one aspect...
Seek first the Kingdom of God
- We're going to look at that phrase in detail
- What is the Kingdom of God
- Why don't we seek it
- How do we seek it

What is the kingdom of God

- Phrase used throughout Scripture, and depending on the time period may have different meanings
- Simply put: the Kingdom of God is where He reigns
- Let's look at three aspects of that phrase for us today

Physical earthly Kingdom - millenium

- Not a teaching on the end times this morning, but Christ return to rule on this earth for 1000 years
- See Nebuchadnezzar's dream and Daniel's interpretation:
- **Dan 2:34-35 (ESV)** (34) *As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. (35) Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.*
- **Dan 2:44-45 (ESV)** (44) *And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, (45) just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure."*
- So many Scriptures speak of this time
- **Isa 11:6-9 (ESV)** (6) *The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. (7) The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. (8) The*

nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. (9) They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

- No death, sickness, disease
- Jesus will reign and there will be peace
- **NOTE:** Restoration of creation to the way it was before sin

Eternal kingdom

- After that 1,000 year reign, the enemy will be released and lead a final rebellion against Jesus
- He will destroy them
- **Rev 20:7-10 (ESV)** *(7) And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison (8) and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. (9) And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, (10) and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*
- See the judgment *Great white throne*
- New heavens and new earth
- **Rev 21:1-4 (ESV)** *(1) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (4) He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*
- God will restore everything
- No more sickness, no more death

In the lives and heart of His people

- Until then, what does it look like?
- Jesus came preaching "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"

- Healed the sick, drove out demons, destroyed religion
- When he reigns, there is restoration!
- God wants to do in and through us first fruits of his ultimate reign
- Consider **Rom 14:17 (ESV)** (17) *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

Why don't we seek it first?

- Consider what the Lord's kingdom is like
- Seek first should be easy... but its not

We think we know better

- See the first temptation: Did God really say
- We doubt God's wisdom for our lives
- We think we know better

We want to be in control

- And because of that, we want to be in control
- We don't trust His power or ability or direction for our lives
- We want to drive

We are rebels who want to be king

- This is the bottom line
- So many parables of Jesus allude to this
- But since the garden we've been in rebellion against our king

How do we seek

Be reconciled

- Before we can seek His kingdom we are to be reconciled
- Jesus came to offer peace!
- We must accept His terms and surrender
- We cannot be seeking the Kingdom of God and our own at the same time - they are incongruous - totally opposed

In prayer

- See the Lord's prayer
- Praying that - every day
- Committing to His Lordship
- Seeking that for your family, church, community

Understand what he wants

- We are to be in the word, submitting to the teaching of the Word to learn who our King is and what He wants
- **Eph 5:10 (ESV)** *(10) and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.*
- **Illustrate:** God was not who I made him out to be

Surrender to His Lordship

- Make Him King
- Crown Him as king in every decision
- This is what Seek First boils down to

Closing

- Who is the king of your life?
- Who's kingdom do you seek?