

The First Thing 4 – 08/28/11

Matthew 6:25-33 –

25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

28 "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;

29 and yet I say to you that even **Solomon** in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

32 For after all these things the Gentiles **seek**. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

33 But **seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness**, and **all these things** (*what should be sought after His Kingdom and His Righteousness*) **shall be added to you**.

The first thing that seeking God's kingdom adds to you is the most important thing – Righteousness or right standing with God

Romans 14:17 - For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but **righteousness** and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus addressed how people, through religion, try to make themselves right with God.

Matthew 23:25-26 –

25 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

26 Blind Pharisee! **First** clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

Not only does God add Righteousness to us in seeking His Kingdom **FIRST**, but he told us to **CONSIDER**:

- **How He cares for the birds – who do sow or reap**
- **How he clothes the fields with flowers – which perish in a day**
- **All the things the world seeks**

God wants us to have richness in:

- **Our relationship with him - FIRST**
- **Our relationship with others**
- **Physically – Healing in His wings**
- **Emotionally – Perfect Peace**
- **Financially – life in abundance**

CONSIDER How he provided for Solomon

- **Solomon's yearly income of gold was - 25 tons of gold or over 2.2 trillion dollars**

Consider Solomon

1 Kings 3:5-15 –

5 At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

6 Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

7 "Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties.

8 Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number.

9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this.

11 So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice,

12 I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

13 Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both riches and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.

14 And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life."

15 Then Solomon awoke, and he realized it had been a dream.

Psalm 35:27 - Let them shout for joy and be glad, that *favor my righteous cause*: yes, let *them SAY CONTINUALLY*, let the Lord be magnified, which *HAS PLEASURE IN THE PROSPERITY OF HIS SERVANTS*.