

Real Christianity: The Sermon on the Mount

#22: Serving Jesus at New Life in 2021

Matthew 6:33

"Seek first the kingdom of God" (Matt 6:33 NIV).

Primary point: This new year let us focus more on the Kingdom of God rather than the kingdom of the World.

Let me read Jesus' fuller statement. "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. So don't worry about tomorrow. . ." (Matt 6:31-34 NLT)

I like how the NLT says it. Don't worry about, don't think about the "things that dominate the thoughts of unbelievers."

Before I talk a little more about that, did you notice the other encouragement here. Twice Jesus says, "do not worry."

A) Shut out and shut up the World in your life

If we are going to be more focused on the Kingdom of God in 2021 then we have to be less focused on the Kingdom of the World. How do our thoughts become dominated by the same things as unbelievers? We spend way too much time consuming their media.

There are two kingdoms on this Earth, and each has its own Scriptures.

I say again, if Jesus were living here today, we would be surprised by how little He cared about what was being reported on the news.

Even secular people are beginning to recognize the harmful effects of the media in our lives. Who here has seen the documentary, "The Social Dilemma"? Watch it.

We need to intentionally find ways to shut out and shut up the world in our lives.

Romans 12:2 tells us: Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Rom 12:2 NIV). This is a warning that your life will conform to whatever you are focused on.

This was one reason for my email about abortion last week. The lack of interest among Christians on this issue tells us that we are being influenced by the media.

We need to create our own little Kingdoms of God in our families, our homes, and our church. We need to be more disconnected from this World and more connected to one another. More like the Amish.

B) Seeking the Kingdom of God at New Life Community Church

What is the Kingdom of God? The Kingdom of God is wherever God rules.

The Kingdom of God starts with His rule in our own hearts. From there it affects how we are trying to grow the rule of God in our families, children, and marriages. And beyond that, we are seeking God's Kingdom in our community and world.

Where is the best place to experience the Kingdom of God? Where is the best place to serve and advance the Kingdom of God? The local church. Even the smallest things happening at New Life Community Church are often more important than the most reported thing happening in Washington D. C.

Seeking first the Kingdom of God at New Life this year:

- A more intentional and united effort to support pro-life ministries in our community.
- Continue the tradition of Just Sow It! campaign.
- Summer Festival last weekend in July.
- March marriage evaluations and April 17 marriage seminar
- Life Group Leaders meeting March 13.
- Discussing the new FRUIT and FREEDOM studies in Barnabas Groups.
- Try Renew Ministry.
- Spring building projects.

Discussion ?'s

- 1) Read Matthew 6:19-34. What are different ways Jesus says we can "seek first the kingdom" in this passage?
- 2) What are reasons to shut out and shut up more of the world's media in your life?
- 3) What are ways that you can be more focused on God's Kingdom instead of the World? How does the local church help you do this?
- 4) As you consider the events and initiatives planned so far at New Life, which ones interest you and why?
- 5) What are ways that you can participate in the Just Sow It! campaign?
- 6) Would anyone be willing to give a brief testimony about their experience with Renew Ministry?
- 7) What was most meaningful to you about the Sunday message?