

# Seek ye first the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6 – 33)

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Illustration: There was a farmer who one day had happy, joyful news for his wife and family. He told them that their best cow had just given birth to two calves, one brown and one white. He said “you know, I believe that we must dedicate one of these calves to the Lord. We will bring them up together, and when the time comes we will sell one and keep the earnings, and we will also sell the other one and give the earnings to the Lord’s work”. His wife asked them which calf he was going to dedicate to the Lord. He replied that “there was no need to bother about that for the time being, we will treat them both in the same way, and when the time comes we will decide then”. And off he went.

After a few months the farmer entered the kitchen looking very miserable and unhappy. When his wife asked him what was troubling him, he answered, “I have bad news, the Lord’s calf is dead.” But she said “we hadn’t decided which was to be the Lord’s calf”. “Oh yes” he said; “I had always decided it was going to be the white one that has died. The Lord’s calf is dead”.

What can we learn from his true story? Perhaps we need to look into our own hearts. Do we always find that it is the Lord’s calf that dies? When money becomes difficult, do we cut back on our gifts to the Lord’s work? What does the Bible say about this?

Jesus spoke on how to live the Christian life in His great Sermon on the Mount. He knew that we needed the essentials of life, such as food and clothing. He always knew that we would never be happy unless we lovingly served our Heavenly Father. Where should our priorities lay. In Matthew 6:33 Jesus summed it up in one sentence: But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.

As we live our daily lives, let us make sure that we each remember that God has given each one a ministry to do. When we have a choice of watching our favourite television programme’s or looking after or visiting a sick friend, how often does the programme win? Do we find that we are always concerned with our hurts, disappointments and wants, with no time for other people’s feelings? Do we realise that we have the power to affect the lives of everyone we meet. Yes we can encourage them to move closer to Jesus, or, we can have the opposite effect. Is it always the Lord’s calf that dies, let us pray that it is not.

Every blessing,

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