

# Sermon Discussion Guide

## Jesus Outside the Box: Seek First the Kingdom

### Icebreakers:

1. When asked about their priorities in life most Christians will say that their priorities in life are 1) God, 2) Family and 3) Church. Do you think that most church people actually live their lives according to these priorities? (Why or why not?)
2. Have you personally accomplished what you wanted to accomplish in life? (What more would you like to do with your life?)
3. If God is the top priority in life, what are you doing to pursue that goal?

**Background:** When sin came into our world it made “us” vulnerable. The earth is not kind and survival is not always easy. We are concerned about the essentials necessary for life. Things such as food, water, shelter, clothing and protection from predators and enemies. Living in a country blessed with prosperity, we often forget about our vulnerabilities as we pursue luxuries, and bigger and better “toys.” Jesus’ teaching on seeking first the Kingdom of God is probably more easily understood in a third world country where just obtaining the essentials for life is challenging; but it does not change the order of what our priorities should be.

**Digging Deeper: (Read ) Matthew 6:24.** "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

1. This reminds me of what the Apostle Paul said: 1 Timothy 6:10. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (Why is the love of money problematic for people of faith?)
2. Jesus challenged our natural tendency to have a duplicitous heart. Why do you think that some people who confess their faith in God struggle with staying loyal to God?
3. Mammon is the deadly sin of covetousness. Why is covetousness dangerous to our spiritual well-being?

**(Read verses 25-32)** "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? 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? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 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? Therefore, do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

1. Is Jesus really telling us not to be concerned with the necessities of life? (Can we actually trust God to take care of us?)
2. Did you ever wish that you were taller, or shorter? (Do you ever find yourself worrying about things that are completely beyond your control?)
3. **Read Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)** And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (There are a number of scriptures that indicate that God will take care of the essentials needed for life)

**Wrap-up: (Read) Matthew 6:33** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- How would you describe the following ideas:
  - “Seek first the kingdom of God.” (How can you practically make this the highest priority in your own life?)
  - “Seek His righteousness.” (This teaching came before the atoning work of Christ, so there is some reason to believe that Jesus was not talking about the imputed righteousness of Christ in the life of a Believer; so, what does it mean to seek God’s righteousness?)