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## *Devotion for October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021*

*"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*

*- Matthew 6:28b-33*

**This passage is a small portion of what Jesus preached from His Sermon on the Mount.** A large crowd had gathered around Jesus, so He went up on a mountain and gave them the word of God, His words. The crowd consisted of mostly Jews from Galilee, Judah, and Jerusalem, but also people from the area of the Decapolis and beyond the Jordan River. The people from the area of the Decapolis were mostly Greeks. So, the crowd was varied, both Jew and Gentile.

Let us look at this passage and how it applies to us today.

The last verse in this passage is used by some to preach a "prosperity Gospel," the idea that if you want material things, you should become a Christian. This is a false Gospel. They turn the last verse around to make it read, *"If you want all these things to be added to you, then seek the kingdom of God."* So, what are they seeking? They are seeking material wealth and not the kingdom of God.

This is not what Jesus was saying at all. Do we seek the kingdom of God just to get material things here on earth? Is it our "work" of seeking that gets us God's blessings? Is it the proclaiming of my belief that gives me my belief? No! It is all a gift from God. Even the very life I have is a gift from God. God is the Creator and all things come from Him and all things are possible with Him.

Jesus uses the flowers of the field and compares them with the fabulous way that King Solomon was dressed. I wonder how much work it took Solomon to gather the wealth he accumulated? So, there is no comparison between what God can do and what humans can do.

Jesus said to make it our priority to seek the kingdom of God and not to be anxious about material things. How can we do this? To start, we repent of our evil ways and turn toward God, who is perfect in every way. We can read Scripture and teach it to our children. During His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus also gave us the Golden Rule:

*"So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."*

*- [Matthew 7:12-14](#)*

Jesus told the crowd that God takes care of the physical needs of His creation, but the most important thing for anyone is being a member of the kingdom of God. When Jesus started His ministry after being tempted by Satan, He began to preach, saying, *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"* ([Matthew 4:17](#)).

So, is there something we can do to seek the kingdom? We can repent and turn away from our sin. We turn to the ways of our God, to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*In Christ Jesus,  
Rev. John Kyle, Associate Pastor  
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