

# Seek First

- *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Mt. 6:33*
- Only one way to know if this is really true.
- After considering all we do to make the kingdom of God and His righteousness 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Look at the things you consider to be 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- If what we think is 2<sup>nd</sup> get more time, money, effort and interest. They are 1<sup>st</sup>.
- *Where your treasure is there will your heart be also. Mt. 6:21*

# A Parable of Assessment

- *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Mt 13:44*
- The treasure in the field was 1<sup>st</sup>.
- All that he had was 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Made perfect sense to sacrifice everything.
- The treasure in the field had far more value.
- The kingdom of heaven is the treasure.
- Is the kingdom of heaven our treasure?
- Will we sell / have we sold all that we have?

# The Holy Spirit Gave This a Name

- Sold all that we had
- Still happy and excited about the purchase
- Never looking back with regret
- Know that what we sold held us back.
- What we bought created more abundant life.
- Never lost sight that we now have the best possible life that exists in this creation.
- *But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, 2Pet. 1:5*
- Virtue is all the above and more!!!

# Virtue (ASV/NKJV/ESV) Moral Excellence (NAS)

- *arete*... can refer to **excellence of achievement**, to **mastery in a specific field**, on the one side, or to endowment with higher power on the other, or often to both together. ... The **subject of achievement** may be **lands, animals, objects, parts of the body**, but mostly it is **man**....” (Kittel, V. 1 p 457)

# Virtue

- “*arete*... word of very wide signification in Grk. writ.; **any excellence of a person** (in body or mind) *or of a thing, an eminent endowment, property or quality*. Used of the human mind and in an ethical sense it denotes **1. a virtuous course of thought, feeling and action; virtue, moral goodness...**” (Thayer, p. 73; 703).

# 'Virtue / Moral Excellence'

- The attitude/efforts people put forth for
- excellence of achievement
- mastery in a specific field
- No one is born with these things!
- We have to choose something... sell all that we have... and buy it! Then Seek it First!!
- Sports – to be a pro athlete.
- Education – to master a field of learning.
- Hobbies – seek to be the best we can.
- Work – seek to rise to the top in ability.
- Where have we placed our Virtue?

# Jesus Wants Our Virtue in His Kingdom

- In the parable of the hidden treasure Jesus revealed the dynamics of *virtue*.
- With the tremendous value of the treasure it made perfect sense to sacrifice everything.
- When we see the His kingdom as something so precious and valuable it is worth every sacrifice, we will seek it first, think and speak of it always, and place our treasures and heart there.
- The kingdom becomes our “*preeminent estimation*” and “*gives us our worth.*” It becomes our priority to have “*excellence of achievement,*” and gain “*mastery.*”

# Paul Added Virtue Immediately

- *But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ...11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Phil 3:7-11*



# Paul Kept Virtue and Added More

- *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; Phil 3:12-15*

# The "Virtue" of Moses

- *“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.” Heb. 11:24-26*

# The 'Virtue' of the Olympic Games

- *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. 25 And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified. 1Cor. 9:24-27*

# God Notices Those with 'Virtue'

- *“Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?” (Job 1:8)*
- *Abraham, Your friend forever 2Chr 20:7*
- *My servant Moses is not so; he is faithful in all my house: (Num. 12:7).*
- *I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who shall do all My will. (Acts 13:22).*
- *"O Daniel, man greatly beloved, ... from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard" (Dan. 10:11-13).*

# Intensity of Virtue

- The ten and five talent men. (Mt. 25:14-30)
- The five wise virgins (Mt. 25:1-13)
- The good Samaritan. (Lk. 10:30-37)
- David before Goliath
- Each was given the opportunity.
- Those who saw the opportunity with virtue (master and achieve excellence) excelled
- while those who had no virtue felt no need to buy up the opportunity and failed.