


THE KINGDOM CODE

# THE CODE OF PRIORITY

*SEEK FIRST*

Lesson 2 | The Kingdom Codes Learning Portal

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### From Lesson 1 to Lesson 2

In Lesson 1, we learned that a Kingdom Code is a biblical truth, pattern, principle, system, structure, or pathway that reveals how the Kingdom of God operates-and shows us how to apply that truth to everyday life. We also learned that Kingdom Codes are Kingdom Operating Systems, not formulas.

Every operating system has a first setting-the one that determines how everything else runs. In the Kingdom, that first setting is priority. Before we can explore any other Code, we must settle the question Jesus settled in Matthew 6:33: What comes first?

### Core Idea

Jesus did not teach us to seek first the things we need.

He taught us to seek first the Kingdom of God and righteousness-and promised that the things we need would be added.

# KEY TEXT

### Matthew 6:33

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

# KEY WORDS

### SEEK

### KINGDOM

### RIGHTEOUSNESS

Understanding these three words changes the way we understand the promise.

# 1. THE REVELATION

### Jesus gives us a priority with a promise.

Matthew 6:33 contains two parts:

# THE PRIORITY

Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

# THE PROMISE

All these things shall be added unto you.

Most people naturally concentrate on the second half.

We want:

• Clarity.

• Provision.

• Understanding.

• Peace.

• Opportunity.

• Relationships.

• Health.

• Purpose.

• Success.

• Recovery.

• Breakthrough. But Jesus directs our attention toward the first half.

Before He tells us what will be added, He tells us what must be sought.

The promise is not floating on its own. It is attached to an order. We cannot claim the second half of the verse while ignoring the first half.

### The promise is connected to the priority.

# 2. THE CODE

### Kingdom priority precedes Kingdom addition.

The underlying pattern is:

# SEEK FIRST

v

## KINGDOM

v

## RIGHTEOUSNESS

v

# ALL THINGS ADDED

Jesus establishes an order.

The Kingdom Code is not:

# SEEK THINGS -> RECEIVE THINGS.

It is:

# SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM -> ALIGN -> ALL THINGS ADDED.

This gives us one of the foundational Codes of Kingdom living:

# PRIORITY PRODUCES ORDER.

When priority becomes disordered, life often becomes disordered.

When priority is restored, everything else can begin finding its proper place.

When the Kingdom of God becomes our priority, its impact will become our reality.

The key to simplifying our lives is discovered in our priorities. Correct priorities simplify your life. Let that sink in.

Many people feel overwhelmed not because they have too much to do, but because they have never settled what comes first. When everything is first, nothing is first. When the Kingdom is first, every other decision has a reference point.

Our priorities determine the quality of our lives and govern our thoughts and actions.

You preserve, protect, and align your life with correct priorities.

One of my mentors, Dr. Myles Munroe, once said, “The greatest tragedy in life is not death, but a life without a purpose.” A life with wrong priorities is a life drifting away from its purpose.

Jesus came to earth and reestablished God’s number one priority: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

# 3. THE CONTEXT OF MATTHEW 6:33

### Jesus is addressing anxiety about everyday needs.

Matthew 6:33 is not a stand-alone slogan. It sits at the end of a passage (Matthew 6:25-34) in which Jesus speaks directly about worry.

The surrounding passage discusses:

• Food.

• Drink.

• Clothing.

• The body.

• Length of life.

• Tomorrow. Beneath those concerns are the deeper needs people carry every day:

• Housing.

• Protection.

• Security.

• Significance.

• Material provision. Jesus is not speaking to people who have no legitimate concerns.

He is addressing the very things people commonly worry about. He points to the birds of the air and the lilies of the field and reminds us that the Father feeds and clothes His creation.

He says:

Do not make these things your controlling pursuit.

Your Father already knows you need them.

“For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.” (Matthew 6:32)

Instead:

# SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM.

Just a few verses earlier, Jesus said, “No man can serve two masters” (Matthew 6:24) and “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21). The whole chapter is about what rules the heart.

Jesus redirects attention from anxiety over provision to alignment with God's government.

# 4. WHAT DOES "SEEK" MEAN?

Seeking is more than casual interest.

The Greek verb used in Matthew 6:33 is zēteō.

It carries the idea of:

• Seeking.

• Searching for.

• Desiring.

• Pursuing.

• Endeavoring to obtain.

• Making something the object of your pursuit. The verb is also written as an ongoing command. It carries the sense of keep on seeking. Seeking the Kingdom is not a one-time decision at an altar. It is a continual way of life.

Jesus is not describing passive curiosity.

He is describing intentional pursuit.

God has always responded to this kind of seeking:

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13)

We usually find time for what we genuinely seek.

• If someone seeks financial success, their decisions begin organizing around it.

• If someone seeks physical health, their habits begin organizing around it.

• If someone seeks a relationship, their attention begins organizing around it. Whatever becomes the primary pursuit begins influencing the structure of life.

Jesus says:

**Make the Kingdom your first pursuit.**

# 5. WHAT DOES "FIRST" MEAN?

First is not merely chronological.

Jesus does not simply mean:

### “Think about God for five minutes in the morning, then pursue everything else.”

The Greek word prōton can mean first in time, but it also means first in rank, order, and importance.

First describes priority.

Preeminence.

What governs everything beneath it.

Paul used this same idea about Christ: “that in all things he might have the preeminence” (Colossians 1:18).

Think of a blueprint.

Before constructing individual rooms, there must be an overall design.

The rooms fit within the blueprint.

No builder pours the foundation after the walls are up. The blueprint and the foundation come first because everything else depends on them.

In the same way:

### Kingdom priority becomes the blueprint through which everything else is ordered.

• Career fits inside Kingdom.

• Money fits inside Kingdom.

• Relationships fit inside Kingdom.

• Purpose fits inside Kingdom.

• Health fits inside Kingdom.

• Leadership fits inside Kingdom. Everything is inside the governing priority of the Kingdom of God.

## 6. WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

The Kingdom is more than a place we go when we die.

The Greek word basileia centers on kingship, reign, rule, royal authority, dominion, and government.

The Kingdom of God certainly has future fulfillment.

But Jesus also proclaimed the Kingdom as a present reality breaking into human experience. His first message was, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand” (Mark 1:15). To say the Kingdom is at hand is to say it is within reach-near enough to receive, enter, and live in today. He taught us to pray, “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

The Kingdom can therefore be understood as:

• God's rule.

• God's government.

• God's order.

• God's authority.

• God's ways.

• God's relational systems and structures that govern reality. The Kingdom is the reality produced when God's government is expressed.

Paul described what that reality looks like: "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17). Righteousness and peace establish the Kingdom within us, and joy in Holy Spirit is how that inner reality overflows and becomes visible to others.

That changes Matthew 6:33 dramatically.

Jesus is not simply saying:

## "Seek heaven."

He is teaching:

## "Make the relational systems and structures of God your first pursuit."

Jesus taught two facets of the Kingdom: the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of Heaven is the systems and structures of Heaven, or how Heaven functions. The Kingdom of God is the systems and structures of God, or how God functions. Some passages in Scripture show the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven overlapping and used interchangeably (Matthew 19:23-24), while other passages emphasize a distinct facet of each.

The Kingdom of God is often illustrated as internal. When the Pharisees asked when the Kingdom would come, Jesus answered:

"The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:20- 21)

The Kingdom of Heaven, by contrast, is often seen externally-as a realm people come into and sit down in:

"And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 8:11-12)

The Kingdom of God works from the inside out, governing the heart. The Kingdom of Heaven is the realm and order of Heaven expressed outwardly. We will explore this more in the next lesson.

Structure gives form, and systems generate flow.

Structure is the ordered framework that holds things in place.

Systems are the living processes in which things work together.

Think of the human body. The skeleton is structure. It gives the body form and holds everything in place. The circulatory system is a system. It keeps life flowing to every part. A body needs both. So does a life, a family, a church, and a business. We will build on this framework in the next lesson.

# 7. WHAT IS RIGHTEOUSNESS?

### Righteousness is correct alignment with God's authority.

The Greek word dikaiosynē carries the idea of righteousness, justice, and what is right before God.

For practical Kingdom application, we can think of righteousness as:

# ALIGNMENT WITH WHAT IS RIGHT IN GOD'S ORDER.

That does not reduce righteousness to a technique.

Righteousness ultimately comes from and is defined by God. It is first a gift we receive in Christ: "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Then it becomes a way of living that flows from that gift.

But it reveals something powerful in Matthew 6:33.

Jesus does not merely say:

Discover the Kingdom.

He also says:

Come into righteousness.

In Kingdom Codes language:

### Understand the systems and structures.

Then:

### Come into alignment with them.

Knowing how something works without aligning with it produces little benefit. A person can understand exactly how a budget works and still never live by one. Understanding opens the door. Alignment walks through it.

# 8. KINGDOM + RIGHTEOUSNESS

Here is the relationship:

KINGDOM reveals God's order.

RIGHTEOUSNESS brings us into agreement with that order.

Kingdom asks:

### How does Heaven operate?

Righteousness asks:

### Where must my life align?

This creates a practical equation:

## KINGDOM TRUTH + ALIGNMENT = KINGDOM ORDER

And Kingdom order creates an environment where appropriate fruit can develop.

This connects directly to the Code of Alignment from Lesson 1: movement requires agreement. Seeking the Kingdom shows us the direction. Righteousness brings us into agreement so we can walk in it.

## 9. THE PURSUIT OF THINGS

Most people seek what Jesus said would be added.

We seek:

• More money.

• The right job.

• The right spouse.

• Healing.

• Recovery.

• Influence.

• Success.

• Recognition.

• Security.

• Breakthrough. None of those desires are automatically wrong.

The issue is priority.

Jesus warns that it is possible for legitimate needs to become governing pursuits.

The pursuit of things never guarantees the acquisition of things.

You can spend your entire life chasing something and never truly possess the life you thought it would create.

The prophet Haggai spoke to people who had returned from exile and were busy building their own houses while God's house lay in ruins. God said:

"Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough... and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes." (Haggai 1:6)

They were working hard, but their priorities were out of order, and their effort kept leaking away. When they put God's house first, God promised, "From this day will I bless you" (Haggai 2:19).

Jesus presents another pathway.

Do not make the things your highest pursuit.

**Seek the Kingdom.**

# 10. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SEEKING FRUIT AND CULTIVATING ROOTS

Imagine a tree.

Someone wants fruit.

So they spend all their energy staring at the branches.

• They worry about fruit.

• Talk about fruit.

• Pray for fruit.

• Compare their fruit to someone else's fruit. But healthy fruit is ultimately connected to:

• Roots.

• Soil.

• Water.

• Light.

• Cultivation.

• Structure. Psalm 1 describes the person whose delight is in the law of the Lord: "He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season" (Psalm 1:3). The fruit comes because the roots are planted by the water.

Jesus redirects us from obsessing over fruit toward establishing the conditions from which healthy fruit emerges.

This is the Code of Seed from Lesson 1 at work: invisible beginning, then process, then visible fruit.

**Things are fruit.**

**Kingdom is root.**

**Seek the root.**

**Let fruit follow.**

## 11. THE CODE OF ADDITION

Jesus says the things will be added.

The word added matters.

Addition is different from pursuit.

To pursue means I chase something.

To add means something comes alongside what is already being established.

Solomon gives us a picture of this Code. When God invited him to ask for anything, Solomon asked for an understanding heart to govern God's people. God answered:

"And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour." (1 Kings 3:13)

Solomon sought what served God's Kingdom, and God added what Solomon had not even asked for.

That creates another Kingdom principle:

**What you make your highest pursuit determines what can properly be added around it.**

- If Kingdom is first, other areas can be ordered around Kingdom.
- But if money is first, everything becomes ordered around money.
- If approval is first, everything becomes organized around approval.
- If comfort is first, decisions become organized around comfort.

**Whatever is first becomes the governmental authority in your life.**

## 12. WHAT IS FIRST GOVERNS WHAT FOLLOWS

This is one of the deepest practical Codes in Matthew 6:33.

## FIRST THINGS GOVERN FOLLOWING THINGS.

If fear is first:

Decisions follow fear.

If money is first:

Decisions follow money.

If ego is first:

Relationships follow ego.

If Kingdom is first:

Life increasingly becomes ordered and structured around Kingdom.

### Everyday Example: The Overbooked Calendar

Marcus is a business owner, a husband, a father, and a deacon at his church. He says his family and his faith come first. But when he looks honestly at his calendar, he sees that every open hour has been filled by the business. Time with God happens only if nothing else interrupts. Family dinners are the first thing canceled when a client calls.

Marcus realizes that his calendar is telling the truth about his priorities. So he makes one change: before he schedules anything else for the week, he blocks time for prayer and Scripture and two family dinners. Everything else now fits around those commitments. Within a few weeks, he notices something surprising. He is not less productive. He is more focused, less anxious, and more present at home. What is first is now governing what follows.

The question is therefore not merely:

### What do I believe?

The better question is:

### What is actually first?

## 13. THE KINGDOM CODE OF PRIORITY

The Code can be expressed simply:

## PRIORITY -> ALIGNMENT -> ORDER -> ADDITION

PRIORITY: Seek the Kingdom first.

v

ALIGNMENT: Bring life into the reality of righteousness.

v

ORDER: Kingdom structure begins governing the area.

**v**

ADDITION: Appropriate fruit can emerge around the established order.

This is not a mechanical formula.

It is a Kingdom pattern.

It also moves along the same pathway we learned in Lesson 1. Seeing that the Kingdom must come first is revelation. Rearranging a specific area of life around it is application. Over time, that new order becomes transformation, then maturity, and finally a life that represents the King to others.

# 14. SEEKING THE KINGDOM IN PRACTICAL LIFE

What does seeking first look like on Monday morning?

It means asking Kingdom questions.

## FINANCES

Instead of only: How do I make more money?

Ask: What does Kingdom stewardship look like?

## RELATIONSHIPS

Instead of only: How do I get this person to change?

Ask: What does a Kingdom response look like from me?

## BUSINESS

Instead of only: How do I grow revenue?

Ask: What Kingdom systems produce integrity, service, value, stewardship, and

## sustainable growth?

## RECOVERY

Instead of only: How do I get out of this situation?

Ask: What Kingdom Code needs to be applied here?

## PURPOSE

Instead of only: How do I become successful?

Ask: What has God entrusted to me, and how do I become faithful and fruitful with it?

Seeking the Kingdom changes the question before it changes the circumstance.

# 15. WHY PEOPLE OFTEN FEEL STUCK

Sometimes we are asking God to add something to a structure that cannot sustain it.

We want:

• Increase without stewardship.

• Influence without character.

• Authority without maturity.

• Financial growth without financial order.

• Healthy relationships without healthy boundaries.

• Peace without changing the agreements feeding chaos. Jesus said, “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much” (Luke 16:10). God is not withholding good things to punish us. Often He is waiting until the structure of our lives can carry what He wants to add.

### Everyday Example: The Raise That Disappeared

Angela prayed for a raise for two years. When it finally came, she was grateful, but within six months the extra money was gone and she felt more pressure than before. Nothing was wrong with the raise. The problem was the structure. She had no plan, no margin, and no agreement with herself about spending. So she went back to the foundation. She began giving first, building a simple budget, and setting aside a small amount each week. The next increase did not disappear. It had a structure to land in.

Jesus’ priority brings us back to the underlying structure.

### Before asking what needs to be added, ask what needs to be aligned.

# 16. KINGDOM PRIORITY REDUCES ANXIETY

Remember the context.

Matthew 6:33 sits inside Jesus’ teaching about worry.

Jesus repeatedly says:

• Do not worry.

• Your Father knows what you need.

• Seek first the Kingdom. Then He adds: “Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof” (Matthew 6:34).

This means Kingdom priority is also an answer to divided attention.

Think of Martha and Mary. Martha was “careful and troubled about many things,” while Mary sat at Jesus’ feet. Jesus told Martha, “But one thing is needful” (Luke 10:41-42). Martha’s problem was not that she was working. Her problem was that the work had become first.

Anxiety says:

**I must control every possible outcome.**

Kingdom priority says:

**I will align with God's order and faithfully handle what belongs to me today.**

This does not eliminate responsibility.

**It eliminates the illusion that anxiety is responsibility.**

Worry feels productive, but it produces nothing. Peter gives us the Kingdom alternative: "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

# 17. SEEKING IS ACTIVE

Seeking the Kingdom is not passive spirituality.

It includes:

• Studying.

• Asking.

• Listening.

• Applying.

• Obeying.

• Testing fruit.

• Correcting alignment.

• Developing wisdom.

• Practicing Kingdom responses.

• Learning the ways of Jesus. Hebrews tells us that God "is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). Diligent seeking is steady, intentional, and consistent. It is not frantic, and it is not lazy.

Holy Spirit is our partner in this pursuit. He leads us into truth, reminds us of what Jesus said, and shows us where alignment is needed.

**Seeking is an active pursuit of understanding and alignment.**

# 18. THE KINGDOM IS DISCOVERED AND APPLIED

This explains why The Kingdom Codes exists.

If Jesus tells us:

# SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM,

then a natural question follows:

### What am I seeking?

And then:

### How does the Kingdom operate?

And then:

### What does Kingdom alignment look like here?

And finally:

### What Kingdom Code can I apply here to break through?

Every lesson in this portal is an answer to Jesus' command to seek. Each Code we study is another discovery of how the Kingdom operates and how our lives can come into alignment with it.

Matthew 6:33 becomes more than an inspirational verse.

### It becomes a lifelong operating priority.

## 19. CHRIST AT THE CENTER

Jesus is not giving us a technique for getting things.

He is calling us to participate in the government of God.

The goal of Matthew 6:33 is not:

# USE THE KINGDOM TO GET STUFF.

The goal is:

# SEEK THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM.

Jesus remains the center. Jesus is King!

The promise of addition must never become more important than the One who gives the promise.

If we seek Kingdom principles merely to acquire things, we have reversed the order again.

Jesus told of a merchant who found "one pearl of great price" and "went and sold all that he had, and bought it" (Matthew 13:46). David said it this way: "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD" (Psalm 27:4).

### The King of the Kingdom is the treasure.

Everything else is secondary.

## WHY THIS MATTERS

Matthew 6:33 changes the way we approach life.

Instead of: What do I need to get?

we ask: What Kingdom truth applies here?

Instead of: What am I missing?

we ask: Where does Kingdom order need to be established?

Instead of: What should I chase?

we ask: What should be first?

And instead of building life around outcomes:

### We build life around Kingdom priority.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Choose one area you currently want to see improve.

Write down what you want added.

Then stop.

Ask:

1. What evidence shows what I am actually seeking first?

2. What would Kingdom order look like here?

3. What does Scripture reveal about this area?

4. Where might I be out of alignment?

5. What structure needs to change?

6. What is one Kingdom action I can take today?

7. Can I trust God with the addition while I take responsibility for alignment?

Do not begin by chasing the outcome.

**Seek first.**

# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What receives the greatest amount of my attention, energy, thought, and concern?
2. What am I currently pursuing that Jesus may be asking me to place inside Kingdom priority?
3. Where am I asking God for addition while resisting alignment?
4. What does seeking the Kingdom practically look like in my current season?
5. Is worry functioning as a substitute for trust and wise action?
6. What would change if I stopped chasing the fruit and began cultivating the root?
7. What Kingdom Code can I apply here to break through?

# ONE QUESTION

If someone looked at my calendar, my spending, and my thoughts this week, what would they say is actually first in my life?

# ONE ACTION STEP

Before you plan anything else this week, set aside a daily time to seek the Kingdom through prayer and Scripture. Write it on your calendar first, and let everything else fit around it.

# DECLARATION

I will seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

I will not let worry govern my life, because my Father knows what I need.

I will cultivate the root and trust God with the fruit.

I will bring my time, my money, my relationships, and my work into Kingdom order.

What is first in my life will be the King and His Kingdom.

I will take responsibility for alignment and trust God with the addition.

Jesus Christ is my center, Scripture is my foundation, and Holy Spirit is my guide.

I will move from revelation to representation.

# YOUR NEXT STEP

Now that we understand the priority, we need to understand what we are seeking.

What does it mean to describe the Kingdom as:

• Government?

• Order?

• Systems?

• Structures?

• Patterns?

• Ways? The next lesson establishes that framework.

# [ NEXT LESSON: KINGDOM SYSTEMS & STRUCTURES ]

# RELATED CODES

## THE CODE OF ALIGNMENT

Understand why Kingdom truth must become practical agreement.

# [ EXPLORE ]

## THE CODE OF SHALOM

Discover the fruit of Kingdom order.

# [ EXPLORE ]

## THE CODE OF STEWARDSHIP

Learn how Kingdom responsibility prepares us to carry increase.

# [ EXPLORE ]

## THE CODE OF MIND RENEWAL

Learn how priority begins changing the way we think.

# [ EXPLORE ]

## TAKE HOME POINT

## JESUS DID NOT TEACH US TO SEEK FIRST WHAT WE NEED ADDED.

## HE TAUGHT US TO SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.

**Seek the Kingdom.**

**Come into alignment.**

**Trust God with the addition.**

**Discover the Kingdom Code you need.**

**Apply it. Move forward.**