**RECALIBRATE**

**‘Seek First the Kingdom’ - Matthew 6:33**

Matthew 6:33 “*But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

**Introduction:**

* ‘Recalibrate’ and the stock exchange
	+ Means to fine tune; adjust (recognise, realise, realign)
1. **Enjoy the Journey**
* Seek = absorbed in the search for

Psalm 16:11 ‘*you will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence, and the pleasures of living with you forever.’*

* Wrong Seeking brings Worry
	+ Worry = strangle or choke
		- Jesus said: ‘*Can you by worry add a day to your life?*’
		- Faith, hope and love can change everything.
* Paul’s situation:

Philippians 4:10-13 ‘*I rejoice greatly in the lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it*

*I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.*

*I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*

*I can do everything through him who gives me strength.’*

* What was Paul’s secret?
	+ I can do ALL things through CHRIST
	+ Paul had learned to be content
* Seeking first the kingdom brings contentment
	+ My life is in His hands
* Seeking first the kingdom brings strength.
	+ Right focus
1. **Wrong Seeking brings Guilt**

Read: 1 Corinthians 10:6-10

*Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.
 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry."
 We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did--and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died.
 We should not test the Lord, as some of them did--and were killed by snakes.
And do not grumble, as some of them did--and were killed by the destroying angel*

* Enemy of our souls tests us in four areas:
	1. Idolatry – misplaced worship
		+ High places in our lives
		+ Allow a spiritual governing authority
		+ Stops the blessing of God flowing
	2. Sexual immorality – degrading something pure into something perverse
	3. Testing the Lord – doubt / unbelief
	4. Grumbling
		+ You keep highlighting a particular problem / issue
		+ Without a solution to help or to encourage faith
		+ Stops the blessing of God flowing
* He will give the resources to beat it:

1 Corinthians 10:13 *‘No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.’*

* + Other people have faced it and beaten it
	+ God is faithful
	+ Provide a way out so you can stand
* Illustration: catching monkeys for research
	+ Monkey with hand in bottle (KEY: LET GO AND LET GOD)
1. **Seek God’s Purpose**

*When God is our priority, we cannot be intoxicated by the driven-ness that accompanies an overloaded lifestyle. – Frank Damazio*

* Don’t mistake adrenalin for the Holy Spirit
	+ Driven people do not handle unforeseen circumstances well
		- Surely it was a mistake that Paul was in prison?
* Time to have a life ‘garage sale’
	+ Clutter = things that crowd out Jesus in your life

Luke 9:59-60 *He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father”. Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."*

* William Booth illustration:

*William Booth was the cofounder of the Salvation Army. One of his biographers tells of a day when General Booth, who was at that time in his 80s, was ill and had been to see a physician. The doctor charged Booth’s son, Bramwell, with the task of telling his dad that he would soon be losing his eyesight.*

*‘You mean that I am going blind?’*

*‘Well, General, I fear that we must contemplate that’, said Bramwell.*

*Booth paused a while to consider what he had been told. Then the General asked, ‘I shall never see your face again?’*

*‘No, probably not in this world’ was the son’s reply.*

*During the next few moments the veteran’s hands crept along the counterpane to take hold of his son’s; holding it, he calmly responded: ‘God must know best!’ Then after another pause: ‘Bramwell, I have done what I could for God and for the people with my eyes. Now I shall do what I can for God and for the people without my eyes’.*

1. **Surrender**

Hebrews 10:22 *let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.*

* Conscience needs cleansing
	+ Conscience is like a filter
	+ Conscience and Holy Spirit work together

1 Timothy 4:1 *‘The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons’*

*Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.*

* Seared = withered, dried up

**Conclusion:**

* Repentance is the only way to uproot guilt
	+ Acknowledge your sin
	+ Accept responsibility to change actions
	+ Receive God’s forgiveness
	+ Forgive yourself
* Love makes you sensitive to sin.
	+ Galatians 5:22 – the fruit to the spirit starts with love, and is manifested in :

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Joy, which is love’s  | Strength |
| Peace which is love’s | Security |
| Patience which is love’s | Mercy |
| Kindness which is love’s | Conduct |
| Goodness which is love’s | Character |
| Faithfulness which is love’s | Perseverance |
| Gentleness which is love’s | Humility |
| Self control which is love’s | Victory |