



SEEK FIRST

Matthew 6:33

SEEK FIRST SERIES

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- The Kingdom is here and now

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- We are being formed into Kingdom people
- We are being sent out to represent the Kingdom

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

It is not love for Christ that informs
what we do, but Christ's love for us.

“I cannot understand myself or my life
apart from what Christ has done for me.”

Repentance: a change of heart that
leads to a change in direction.

Christ's love compels us to
make a 180-degree turn.

“There is no more beautiful description of the work that God has given Christians to do in the world than is found in Paul’s statement that Christ has ‘given us the ministry of reconciliation.’”

–Communicator’s Commentary

We are ambassadors for Christ.

AN AMBASSADOR...

- Represents their country.

“I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians.
Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.”

–Mahatma Gandhi

When people encounter me, what
picture of Jesus are they getting?

AN AMBASSADOR...

- Represents their country.
- Builds trust with people.

We can genuinely love people without
agreeing with everything they believe or
participating in everything they do.

Who are the people in my regular life who don't follow Jesus? How can I begin meeting people who think differently than me?

AN AMBASSADOR...

- Represents their country.
- Builds trust with people.
- Reports what they see in the host country.

We can't isolate but also must be careful not to let culture determine our convictions.

Do I understand the people around
me, or do I mostly consume
commentary about them?

AN AMBASSADOR...

- Represents their country.
- Builds trust with people.
- Reports what they see in the host country.
- Protects the people under their nation's care.

Representing the Kingdom means we
care about what happens to people.

Who in my community is vulnerable,
overlooked, or treated unjustly, and how can
I practically show the love of Jesus to them?

AN AMBASSADOR...

- Represents their country.
- Builds trust with people.
- Reports what they see in the host country.
- Protects the people under their nation's care.
- Speaks and invites.

We do not alter the message but
communicate it faithfully.

Where am I creating opportunities
for people to encounter Jesus, both
in how I live and in what I say?

DOWNSIDES FOR AN AMBASSADOR

- The job can consume your life.

Is following Jesus an activity I've added to my life, or the thing my life is organized around?

DOWNSIDES FOR AN AMBASSADOR

- The job can consume your life.
- There are personal and family security risks.

Is there a place where I've stayed quiet
about my faith to avoid discomfort,
rejection, or persecution?

DOWNSIDES FOR AN AMBASSADOR

- The job can consume your life.
- There are personal and family security risks.
- It involves family disruption.

Where do I feel the tension between
loyalty to Jesus and the expectations of
the people closest to me?

DOWNSIDES FOR AN AMBASSADOR

- The job can consume your life.
- There are personal and family security risks.
- It involves family disruption.
- They have responsibility without complete control.

What outcome am I trying to control that
God has asked me to entrust to Him?

DOWNSIDES FOR AN AMBASSADOR

- The job can consume your life.
- There are personal and family security risks.
- It involves family disruption.
- They have responsibility without complete control.
- They endure constant public scrutiny.

If someone watched my life closely for a month, would they see something that makes Jesus more attractive or less?

DOWNSIDES FOR AN AMBASSADOR

- The job can consume your life.
- There are personal and family security risks.
- It involves family disruption.
- They have responsibility without complete control.
- They endure constant public scrutiny.
- It causes moral and emotional strain.

Where am I tempted to soften
the truth to be liked?

“He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him **we might become the righteousness of God.**”

-2 Cor. 5:21

How much more of an honor it is to
represent the Savior who died for my sins?