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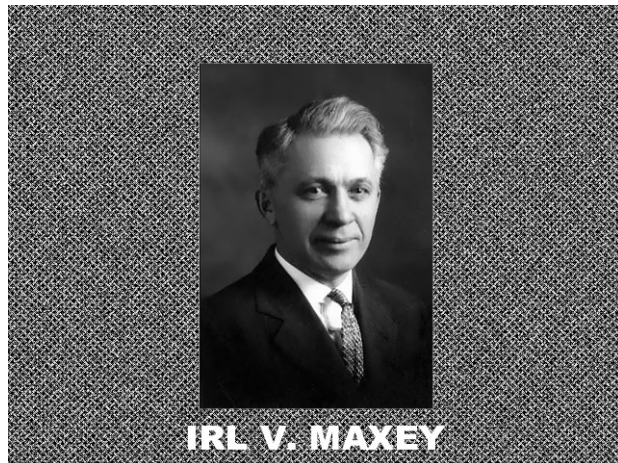
**SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD
A Sermon By Irl V. Maxey**

**Digitized and Edited
By Duane V. Maxey**

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INTRODUCTION TO THIS FILE

While this sermon is neither dated nor located, it is quite obvious that it was written at nearly the same time as five other sermons in the same notebook -- in 1913. It is the fifth sermon in the notebook, being preceded by: 1 sermon dated October 11, 1913 -- 2 sermons dated October 18, 1913 -- and one sermon dated October 25, 1913 -- and, followed by the sixth sermon dated November 6, 1913. Its place among these sermons suggests that it may have been written some time between October 25, 1913 and November 6, 1913 -- or perhaps on one of those dates. Furthermore, since all of the other sermons in the notebook were written in Imbler, Oregon, it is most likely that this sermon was also written in that location.

As with some of papa's other sermons that were untitled, I have titled this one in accordance with the text and contents of the message. -- Duane V. Maxey, (Ahwatukee) Phoenix, Arizona, Thursday, January 26, 2006.

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We will choose for our text this morning the 33rd verse of the 6th chapter of Matthew.

SERMON TEXT: -- "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

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God is perfectly interested in His creation, still must be in His creatures, and most certainly in humanity. While Jesus was on His final trip to Jerusalem He was confronted by a great crowd. They tore the branches from the trees and strewed them in His way. They no doubt threw flowers in His pathway. They even took their outer garments and threw them in his pathway so that He must ride over these to get to Jerusalem.

Even so, God Almighty so loves humanity that He throws across their pathway through life many advices and promises. One of the first things that confronts a child after reaching accountability is the advice of the very text of this morning. You are traveling a hard pathway full of pitfalls and dangers. One thing is very important: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God.." If we do otherwise, we must trample this advice neath our feet.

God reaches up to the tree of His love and tears away a mighty branch -- it is a promise of love -- and throws it across our pathway: -- "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). God picks the most beautiful flowers of His Spirit and throws them at the feet of men: --

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1:1-3).

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them" (Revelation 14:13).

Oh love and happiness! -- and yet more He throws a promise of peace to our souls:

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17).

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost" (Romans 15:13).

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3).

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 5:23).

But again God throws His very garments in our pathway, and says I'll protect you:

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1).

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (Psalm 91:1).

But we trample the advice of God under our feet and say we will not seek first the kingdom of God. We trample under our feet the promises of love. We trample his promise of peace and protection, and lastly His promise of happiness under our feet in mad pursuit of what we think is happiness. We say by our actions: Seek ye first money, education, and all things of the world, and the kingdom of God shall be added later.

First, we think our happiness depends on us having our own way. If we can just get from under these laws of home, where Thou shalt not, Thou shalt not, is not in our face always. After being away from home we feel the need of a companionship, and feel if we can just find the proper young man or young lady and marry we will settle our longing for companionship. Then we shall be happy. This accomplished it seems, just a little further on we shall be happy when we have a home of our own and perhaps a child or children. But, this accomplished, the

needs of the home make us feel that when we have sufficient money to feed the children, clothe the children, and send them to school, we shall be happy.

But with all this added, we are not nearer to God, and happiness in the uncertain world of wickedness still remains out of reach -- out before us. Can I keep my money? Can I keep my children pure from sin? What if they go wrong? We had thought we were well able to protect ourselves and our family. But WHAT, AH, WHAT IF?!

Fear and danger confront us, our peace is not nigh, nor is happiness our companion. Our heart grows hard and doubtful. We stagger on the verge of destruction, or blindly grope in the dark. Oh, listen children! Listen parents! Listen! for Jesus' sake, and do not trample the truth. God loves us and throws across our path the never changeable truth: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" -- the things you have sought -- the very things you need!

Your happiness is in having God's Spirit, and when we choose a wife or husband, this is part of God's plan. Certainly there is happiness with God without a home or a companion.

A preacher friend of mine once called on an old lady who had nothing but a tent to dwell in, and a pile of straw to sleep on. When he called she lay on the straw sick. She raised her thin hands and shouted, "Glory to God! Oh, brother Davis, I am so happy! 'A tent or a cottage, why should I care? They're building a mansion for me over there.'"

"Let others seek a home below
Which flames devour and waves o'erflow,
Be mine a happier lot to own
A blessed mansion near the Throne.

"I'm going home to die no more."

Peace! Oh, beloved, there can be no peace on the troubled sea of life unless Jesus speaks to the waves of sin and says, "Peace, be still."

"O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea" (Isaiah 48:18).

We are on the way of life and we must not trample down God's promise of protection. There is so much danger everywhere -- that we see, and that we do not see. The "devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Strong ones, mighty ones, have been carried away to his den and devoured -- in the caves of Society, Politics, and Passion.

Let God's love fill our soul. Through having His happiness in our soul, we can sing: "Oh happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away!"

Let us peacefully abide under the Shadow of the Almighty, where He can preserve us from all evil. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

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THE END OF THIS SERMON