 **Message Outline**

 *A Last Word on the 2024 Word: FIRST*

 **Matthew 6:33**

**Intro:** Next week, banner raising week!

* Reflecting on our 2024 Word, FIRST…
* FIRST full year as FIRST Church…
* Desire to always be a church who seeks FIRST God’s Kingdom and righteousness!

**Read:** Matthew 6:25-34

* First sermon series in 2024 was on the Sermon on the Mount (The GOAT Sermon):

 -5:1: Sermon on the Mount…following Jesus is for climbers, not coasters!

 -5:3-16: The Blessed Life (ie. Beatitudes).

 -5:17-48: Christian Morality…

 -6:1-24: Christian Practices…

**v.25—**Seeking contrasted with worrying…

* Stats that show our struggle with worry…
* Practices to help process worry (6:1-24), and reflections to root out worry (6:25-34).

**v.25-30—**Jesus’ reflections on worry…

 -v.25b: Life is “more than” what we often stop to worry about…stress stops short!

 -v.26b: We forget God’s value/care on us!

 -v.27: Worry hurts, not helps, us!

 -v.30: Flexing faith can weaken worry…

* Peter and lesson on attention (Mt.14:22ff.)…

**v.31—**Repeat reminder on worry (cf. v.25)…

**v.32-33—**Contrast between pagan and Christian…

* God’s awareness of our needs…
* Prime need is to pursue Him FIRST…

**v.34—**Staying present helps process worry…

**33**But seek FIRST his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

–Matthew 6:33 NIV

* *“But”* shows contrast (cf. Rom.12:1-2)…
* *“seek”* shows movement not stagnant…
* *“first”* shows priority/primacy…
* *“his”* is God’s…
* *“kingdom and righteousness”* shows rule and rightness connected to God…
* *“all these things”* shows God’s awareness of other needs humans have…

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 **Small Group**

**Reflection Questions**

(Please take time to ponder and pencil in

to prep for this week’s small group session.)

***WELCOME BACK TO SMALL GROUPS!!!***

*\*Purpose: To build our FAITH and our FRIENDSHIPS.*

*\*Rules groups live by:*

 *1) Contribution: show up prepped up!*

 *2) Confidentiality: what’s shared in the group, stays in the group!*

 *3) Culture: be honest with self and speak the truth in love to others!*

*\*As a group take time to catch up on life since we last met before Thanksgiving break… (A Group Idea: have everyone in the group bring in one item or picture or gift that explains something about their holiday break. Play a grade school version of “show-and-tell” about the item they brought in as a way to catch up on everyone’s break from small group.)*

*\*This week in church we reviewed our Word of the Year for 2024 “seek FIRST”. Is there any way you’ve noticed yourself growing in your seeking of God? What’s something you want to do more intentionally in 2025 to seek God?*

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