

A laptop is open on a light-colored wooden surface. The screen shows a Bible software interface with a menu bar (File, Edit, Format, Bible, Commentary, Dictionary, Tools, Options, Download, Window, Help) and a main window displaying a Bible passage. The passage text reads: "Mat 6:30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?" A wooden-textured rectangular overlay with a black border is positioned in the foreground, partially covering the laptop screen. The overlay contains the text "Seeking First the Kingdom of God" in a white, bold, sans-serif font. To the right of the laptop, a dark-colored mug is visible. A pair of glasses is resting on the laptop keyboard in the lower-left foreground.

# Seeking First the Kingdom of God

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Costs everything you have

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Costs everything you have

Worth every penny!

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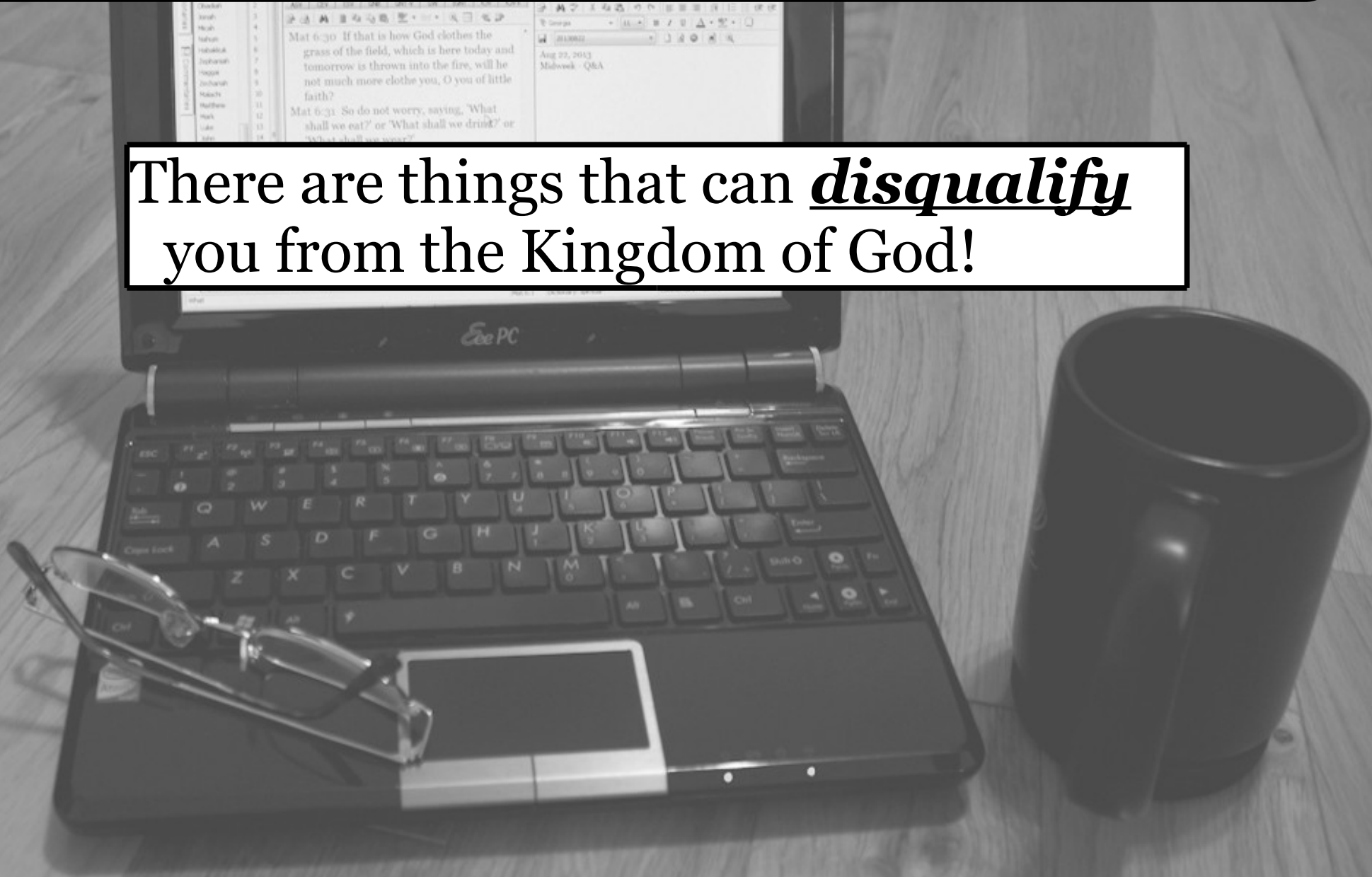
Seeking the finest pearl

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# Seeking First the Kingdom of God

There are things that can *disqualify* you from the Kingdom of God!



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Find out what is God's will!

Get spiritual advice!

# Seeking First the Kingdom of God

**Luk 9:62** Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

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**Don't return to your old life!**

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You must begin a new life!

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**1Co 6:9** Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders

**1Co 6:10** nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

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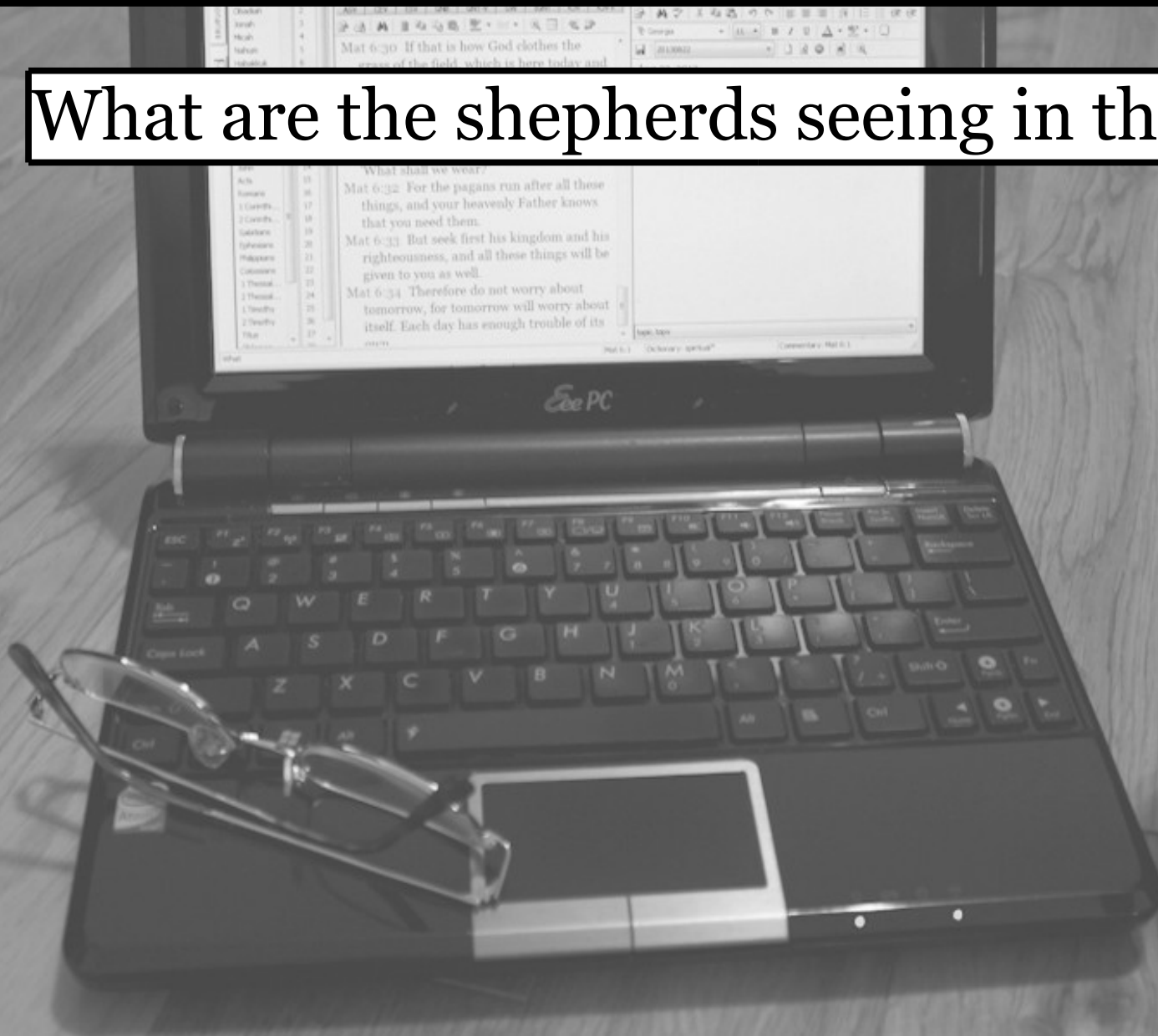
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Sin will disqualify people from the inheritance.



# Seeking First the Kingdom of God

What are the shepherds seeing in the church?



# Seeking First the Kingdom of God

What are the shepherds seeing in the church?

Putting other things ahead of the Kingdom of God

- Routinely missing church (work, activities, tiredness...)
- Enrolling kids in activities that cause them to miss church
- Not attending family group activities, or other church activities
- Staying out late Saturday night and sleeping in on Sunday
- Coming late to church
- Not enrolling kids in camp

- Finances and materialism
- Not giving “first fruits”
- Not serving
- Skipping fellowship after church
- Not practicing hospitality
- Cliques within the church
- How we spend discretionary time
- Not seeking spiritual advice

# Seeking First the Kingdom of God

How are we being influenced by worldly values?



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- Afraid to ask boss to adjust schedule for church
- Want kids to be in all the activities their friends are
- “Weekends are for fun” which leaves us sleeping in on Sunday
- Trying to appear “successful” in the eyes of parents, siblings...
- Materialism drains our finances
- NFL season is coming – so rushing home after church
- Hanging out with people just like ourselves is “more comfortable”

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We show that other things are more important

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Not asking what is best for the Kingdom

# Seeking First the Kingdom of God

Seeking first the Kingdom...



# Seeking First the Kingdom of God

Seeking first the Kingdom...

- In the big things
- In the everyday things
- Moment by moment



# Seeking First the Kingdom of God

## Seeking first the Kingdom in the Big Things

Becoming a Christian->  
Whom to marry----->  
Where to live----->  
Where to work----->

- Don't put it off!
- Only a true disciple!
- Where there is a great church
- Schedule compatible with being a disciple

# Seeking First the Kingdom of God

Seeking first the Kingdom in the Everyday Things

Devote yourself to

- The apostles' teaching
- Fellowship
- Breaking of bread
- Prayer

# Seeking First the Kingdom of God

## Seeking first the Kingdom Moment by Moment

- Pray continually
- Let no unwholesome talk come from your mouth
- Make the most of every opportunity
- Be holy, because the Lord is holy

# Seeking First the Kingdom of God

**Eph 4:17** So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.

# Seeking First the Kingdom of God

**Mat 25:1** "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

**Mat 25:2** Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

**Mat 25:3** The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.

**Mat 25:4** The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

# Seeking First the Kingdom of God

**Mat 25:5** The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

**Mat 25:6** "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'"

**Mat 25:7** "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.

# Seeking First the Kingdom of God

**Mat 25:8** The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

**Mat 25:9** "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

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You can't ride someone else's coattails!



# Seeking First the Kingdom of God

**Mat 25:10** "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

**Mat 25:11** "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!'

**Mat 25:12** "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

**Mat 25:13** "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

# Seeking First the Kingdom of God

Are you ready for the bridegroom to return?

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Are you ready for the bridegroom to return?

When are you going to get ready?

# Seeking First the Kingdom of God

**Mat 6:24** "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

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Whom will you serve?

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Whom will you serve?

Get off the fence!

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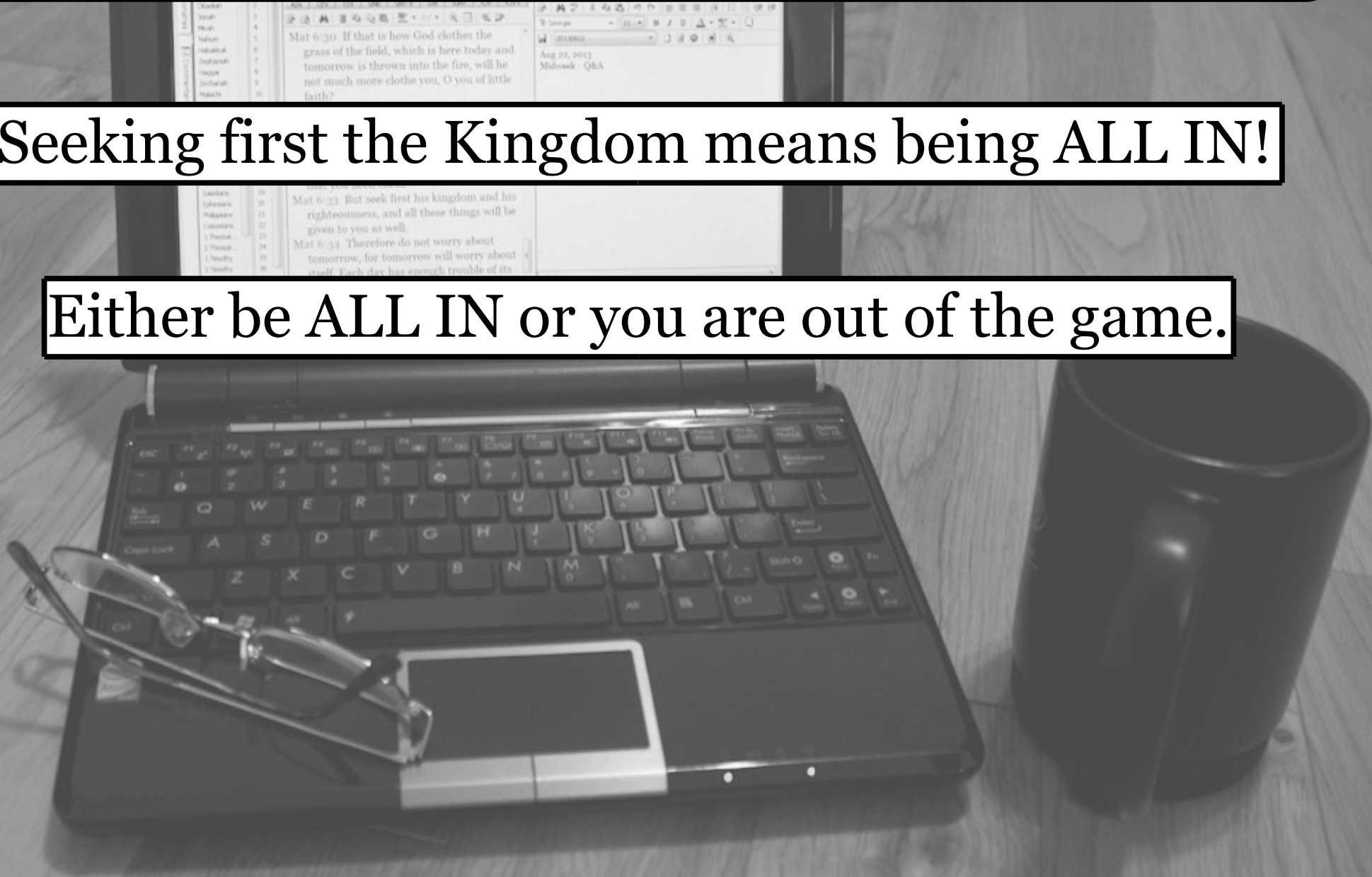
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Either be ALL IN or you are out of the game.





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Either be ALL IN or you are out of the game.

Are all of your chips on the table?

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**Jos 24:14** "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

**Jos 24:15** But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

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Choose today whom you will serve!

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