

Matthew 6:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

Analysis

Jesus contrasts believers with unbelievers: 'For after all these things do the Gentiles seek: for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things' (Greek: πάντα γὰρ ταῦτα τὰ ἔθνη ἐπιζητοῦσιν, 'for all these things the Gentiles seek after'). 'Gentiles' (ἔθνη) represents those without covenant relationship with God - they seek provision anxiously because they don't know God as Father. The verb ἐπιζητέω means 'earnestly seek' or 'strive after.' Believers have different basis for confidence: 'your heavenly Father knows your needs.' The Father's knowledge (οἶδεν) isn't merely intellectual awareness but caring attentiveness that motivates provision. This distinguishes pagan anxiety from filial trust.

Historical Context

First-century Gentiles practiced religion primarily to secure divine favor for practical blessings - good harvests, health, prosperity. Pagan religion was largely transactional. Jewish and Christian faith operated differently - relationship with God as Father who faithfully provides for His children. Jesus distinguishes His followers from surrounding pagan culture's anxious manipulation of gods through ritual. The Father's knowledge echoes Psalm 139 - comprehensive divine awareness that includes caring provision.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does knowing God as Father rather than distant deity transform our approach to needs?
2. In what ways do we slip into pagan patterns of anxious striving rather than filial trust?
3. What difference does God's knowledge of our needs make to our experience of those needs?

Interlinear Text

πάντα	γὰρ	ταῦτα	τὰ	ἔθνη	ἐπιζητεῖ·	οἶδεν	γὰρ
all	(For	these things	G3588	do the Gentiles	after	knoweth	(For
G3956	G1063	G5023		G1484	G1934	G1492	G1063
ὁ	πατὴρ	ὑμῶν	ὁ	οὐράνιος	ὅτι	χρῆζετε	τούτων
G3588	Father	your	G3588	heavenly	that	ye have need	these things
	G3962	G5216		G3770	G3754	G5535	G5130
ἀπάντων							
of all							
G537							

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 6:8 (Parallel theme): Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

Luke 12:30 (Parallel theme): For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

Ephesians 4:17 (Parallel theme): This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

Psalms 17:14 (Parallel theme): From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, which have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes.

1 Thessalonians 4:5 (Parallel theme): Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

Psalms 103:13 (Parallel theme): Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

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