

UPSIDE DOWN THE WAY OF THE KINGDOM PART 9

“AN ABSURD GIFT”

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 18; COLOSIAINS 3:12

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INTRODUCTION

- We often talk about being hurt physically, but we're usually far too unprepared when we're hurt internally.
- In the Kingdom of God, we are to have faith like Jesus, not just in Him.
- Last week we discussed that the Kingdom grows in us through patience, bears fruit through surrender and redeems what others would have given up on.

I. THE GRACE OF THE KINGDOM

- Matthew 18:21-22, Then Peter came to Him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” ²² “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!”
- Matthew 18:23-27, “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him...one of his debtors...owed him millions of dollars...his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.”
- Grace is the currency of the Kingdom.
- The core of God's relationship with people is grace.

II. FORGETTING FORGIVENESS

- Matthew 18:28-35, “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment...the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me.

³³ Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?'”

- Our ability to forgive is directly related to our awareness of how much we have been forgiven.
- In the Kingdom of God, forgiveness is not optional.
- Far too often we fail to see forgiveness as a spiritual act.
- Grace is the currency of forgiveness.
- Grace is giving someone something they don't deserve.
- Key - Luke 12:48 - To whom much is given, much is required.

III. FORWARD GIVING

- Colossians 3:12-15, “...you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others...”
- Forgiveness is giving up the right to hurt someone for the way they have hurt you.
- Unforgiveness is the way of normal, ordinary, broken human life.
- Some hurts we will never forget; but through forgiveness it can be sidelined from dictating the future.
- Forgiveness is a gift; it is a process and is more than just an act of your will.

CLOSE

- Colossians 3:16-17, “...¹⁷ And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”