

UPSIDE DOWN THE WAY OF THE KINGDOM PART 1

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INTRODUCTION

- Jesus spent much of His time telling stories.
- Jesus' way is not our way. Many of His stories offended or pushed people back.
- The word parable is two Greek words – para means alongside, and bole is to throw, so throwing things alongside.
- To compare and contrast two things.
- I Peter 2:4-8, "As you come to Him, the living stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to Him...⁶ For...it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame...But to those who do not believe... "a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall..."

I. THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

- Matthew 4:23 - Jesus preached the "gospel of the kingdom."
- Then He demonstrated its power.
- He went preaching, teaching, healing and delivering.
- Jesus taught to transform, that takes engagement from the people.
- Having the faith of Jesus, not just faith in Jesus.
- Mark 4:35-41 - Story of storm on Sea of Galilee.
- Matthew 8:26, "Why were you afraid, you of little faith."
- Galatians 2:16-20, "...the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God."

II. THE UPSIDE-DOWN WAYS OF THE KINGDOM

- Matthew 11:12, "...the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force."
- Could it be that Jesus was talking about all the people who broke the rules to get to Him.
- Matthew 8:1-3 "...² and a leper came to Him and bowed down before Him..." Jesus touched him; that broke all the rules.
- The Centurion - Matthew 8:5-6
- The lady who had the bleeding problem - Mark 5:25 - touched His robe.

- This kingdom is ruled by a king called to protect His people, to heal His people and to serve His people.

III. THE STORIES OF THE KINGDOM

- Jesus taught using stories meant to penetrate the heart.
- He taught what it was like to live under the rule of God.
- Where chaos ceases and peace can reign.
- Matthew 13:10-13, "And the disciples came... "Why do you speak to them in parables? "¹¹ Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted... "¹⁵ for the heart of this people has become dull..."
- Those who have get more, they had capacity to receive, it has to do with hearts.
- Jesus said often – "He who has ears to hear let them hear."
- Matthew 9:35, "Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness."
- Then in chapter 10-12 He sent the disciples out to do the same.

IV. WHAT KIND OF HEART DO YOU HAVE?

- When Jesus talked about planting seeds He also talked about the condition of the soil.
- The heart - can it receive and grow?
- Your will is the key to the kingdom in you.
- When Jesus shines His light on your heart two things can happen: It can soften or harden - Exodus 7-15
- What does your mind dwell on?
- The enemy will seed our thoughts with his death and loneliness.
- Matthew 6:33, "Seek first His kingdom."

CLOSE

- We live in a deeply lonely culture – disconnected.
- Jesus gave His church to heal loneliness.
- Luke 8:18, "Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away."