

UPSIDE DOWN WAY OF THE KINGDOM PART 3

“QUIET WORK: LET IT GROW”

SCRIPTURE: MARK 4; HEB 4; PHIL 2; EPH 3

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INTRODUCTION

- Series on the Kingdom, and the stories Jesus used to help us understand it, even if it's upside down.
- Week 1: Jesus calls us to faith like Him not just in Him.
- Week 2: The Way of the Kingdom is not forced from above but formed within.

I. QUIET WORK

- Mark 4:26-27, Jesus also said, “The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, while he’s asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens.”
- Mark 4:28-29, “The earth produces the crops on its own...²⁹ And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come.”
- Jesus’ Rhythms of Life: Solitude, Community, Ministry.
- We are often scared of solitude, avoid community and reluctantly do ministry.
- We fear being vulnerable with God because we mistakenly think He’s like people and will be disappointed in us.
- Nothing about the way of the Kingdom is fast, flashy, or flattering, but it is always fulfilling.
- The Way of the Kingdom is a quiet work that matures in the dark.

II. POTENTIAL

- Mark 4:30-32, Jesus said, “How can I describe the Kingdom of God?...³¹ It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, ³² but it becomes the largest of all garden plants...”

- Seeds require intentional cultivation.
- It's the quiet work that's the most profound, deep, transformative and lasting.
- What appears above the dirt is the result of what was done in the dark.
- Jesus preached the Kingdom as a present reality.
- Salvation in The New Covenant:
 - Forgiveness of Sin - the work of the cross.
 - Transformation of Character - more like Jesus.
 - Power over Evil - Doing what Jesus did.

III. THE SPIRIT, SUSTENANCE, AND THE WORD

- Hebrews 4:12-13, “For the word of God is alive and active...it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart...”
- We live in two realities – the physical and the invisible.
- The Spirit is the active force of the Kingdom of God, and that presence causes deep growth in quiet places.
- We don’t fast to prove anything. We fast to learn inwardly what it is like to live on the substance of the Spirit.

IV. THE WORK OF GRACE

- Grace is God acting in our lives to do what we cannot do on our own.
- Grace, like the Kingdom, is not something we produce in ourselves.
- Philippians 2:14-16, “...you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life.”
- The Way of the Kingdom is a quiet work that matures in the dark.

CLOSE

- Abandoning the seed to the soil is faith.
- Ephesians 3:20-21, “Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think....”