

UPSIDE DOWN THE WAY OF THE KINGDOM PART 5

“SHINE LIKE THE SUN”

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 13; GALATIANS 5 & 6

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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.
- Last week was one of the most upside-down parables: The Great Feast is for the least.

I. THE WORLD WE'RE IN

- Matthew 13:24-26, “Here is another story Jesus told: ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. ²⁵ But...as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat... ²⁶ When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew.’”
- Matthew 13:27-30, “The farmer’s workers...said, ‘Sir, the field is full of weeds!...’ ‘Should we pull out the weeds?’ they asked. ²⁹ ‘No,’ he replied, ‘you’ll uproot the wheat if you do. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest...’”
- God intended for things to grow in this world.
 - But it’s not just good things that grow.
- The enemy is at work trying to build his kingdom along side the places God has established His.
- Vs. 28 - The farmer allows the weeds to stay.
- God is patient, merciful, graceful and compassionate with people.

II. THE WORLD IN US

- The purpose of Jesus’ parable is to challenge us to examine our hearts.
- The world in us: Farmer is the Father, Soil is our hearts, Seeds are the contents of our hearts.

- There’s a conflict happening between the Kingdom and the enemy.
- The battle primarily occurs in the hearts of people.
- Those who follow Jesus will produce FRUIT.
- Galatians 5:22-23, “But the Holy Spirit produces...fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control...”
- Jesus’ expectations for His Followers, those of the Kingdom, is that they would grow in the Spirit.

III. IN THE END

- Matthew 13:36-43, “...The harvest is the end of the world...⁴¹ The Son of Man will send His angels, and they will remove from His Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil...⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father’s Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!”
- God is patient; but an end of the world as we know it will come.
- The enemy is trying to deceive and destroy you.
- The enemy’s strategy is subtle. It’s shrouded in partial truths.

CLOSE

- The path to transformation and growth is and always will be surrender.
- Galatians 6:8, “Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death...But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.”
- Galatians 6:9, “So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”