

SERMON SERIES DISCIPLING GUIDE

Series: As It Is In Heaven • Sermon: The Upside-Down Kingdom • Date: Oct. 13/14, 2018 • Speaker: Matt Boda

INTRODUCTION

Matt led us in an exploration of the “Upside Down Kingdom”. Things in the Kingdom can seem backward and opposite of our expectations. The disciples experienced this throughout their journey with Christ, and it shows us just how long it can take to actually understand how it all works.

READ TOGETHER

Read this quote Matt mentioned from A.W. Tozer ...

A real Christian is an odd number anyway. He feels supreme love for One whom he has never seen, talks familiarly every day to Someone he cannot see, expects to go to heaven on the virtue of Another, empties himself in order to be full, admits he is wrong so he can be declared right, goes down in order to get up, is strongest when he is weakest, richest when he is poorest, and happiest when he feels worst. He dies so he can live, forsakes in order to have, gives away so he can keep, sees the invisible, hears the inaudible and knows that which passeth knowledge.

- Which of these “upside down” realities is most confusing or difficult to believe for you?
- Which of these have you experienced? Describe your experience.
- There may be some areas of your life that need to be upside down, and more in line with the Kingdom. Looking at the quote above, and reflecting on our scripture today, what do you think needs to be a change of heart or mind for you?

The passage this weekend is another example of this “Upside Down Kingdom”. Read Matthew 20:1-16 together.

- Which worker do you identify as? The 6am crowd? The 5pm crowd?
 1. If you are of the earlier crowd, how do you view the later crowd? What do you hope they know and understand about being someone who came “later to the vineyard”?
 2. If you are of the earlier crowd, how did (or does) it feel to be a part of the body when you feel a bit like an outsider? What were the struggles, feelings or complexities?
 3. If you are of the later crowd, how do you view the earlier crowd? What do you hope they know and understand about being someone who came “early to the vineyard”?
- Matt mentioned a few applications for us, depending on when we started following Jesus:
 1. If you're a long-termer, never forget where you came from.
 2. If you're a short-termer, never forget where you're headed.
 3. If you're a non-termer, never forget where God wants you.
- Based on where you believe you belong, how would you respond to this encouragement? What does it mean to you? What does it look like practically to respond?

DISCIPLING CHECK IN

It's been a few weeks since we started our series. We started with an examination of who disciples are, and what this Kingdom is all about. We drew a triangle and described Kingdom life as an “UP, IN & OUT” experience.

- How are you doing in these areas as a group? As an individual?
- Did you follow through on steps or commitments? If yes, what did that look like? If no, what got in the way?

Take a minute to silently pray, and ask God this question:

- Based on this series so far, the passage this week, the guide and our conversation... Lord, what are you inviting me to know or experience? What are you calling me to do or consider?

Take some time to share this and pray for one another.