

UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM #2 The Way Up ...is Down

Mark 1:14 ...Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

1. THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS ALREADY HERE, BUT NOT YET FULLY HERE

Prolepsis: the current manifestation of a **FUTURE** guaranteed reality.

2. THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS COUNTER-CULTURAL

Matthew 23:11 *The greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹²Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*

A. Humility Is The Pathway To **HONOR**

James 4:10 *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.*

Proverbs 18:12 *Before destruction a man's heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.*

- 1) God is looking for humble people to raise up, and proud people to bring down.
- 2) It's the humble heart that gets God's attention and attracts His grace.

Humility: assessing yourself **ACCURATELY**.

B. Serving Is The Pathway To **GREATNESS**

Matthew 20:17 *And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, ¹⁸“See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death ¹⁹and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.” ²⁰Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. ²¹And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, “Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in*

your kingdom.” ²²Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?” They said to him, “We are able.” ²³He said to them, “You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.” ²⁴And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers.

True Greatness Serves People!

Matthew 20:25 *But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶It shall not be so among you. **But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”***

- Humility is demonstrated through **SERVING** other people.
- True greatness is measured not by how many serve you, but by how many **YOU SERVE**.
- Cultivating a **SERVANT'S HEART** is a key aspect of following Jesus.
- Servanthood is the pathway to **LEADERSHIP** in the kingdom of God.

Luke 22:26 *Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves... **But I am among you as the one who serves.***

SERVE LIKE JESUS...

Serving In Secret — *Do I care if anyone knows or not?*

Serving In Humility — *Am I in it just for the recognition?*

Serving Sacrificially — *What's it costing me to serve? Anything?*

Serving Faithfully — *Can I be counted on?*

Serving with Perseverance — *What do I do when it gets hard? When it becomes inconvenient? When I feel under-appreciated?*

“You gotta serve somebody!”