

First Friends Church
“Living Upside Down”
3-8-09

“Upside Down” – Living in Christ’s Kingdom is so counter-culture it often seems like it’s *flipped* upside down.

* Jesus would often say, “You’ve heard it said _____ but I say _____.” Mt. 5

Matt. 20:16 Jesus said that in his kingdom the first will be last and the last will be first.

Matt. 20: 26 He said that whoever wanted to be greatest would have to be the servant of all.

Luke 18:17 I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

Acts 17:6 Christ’s followers became known as people “who have turned the world upside down.” (Amplified Version)

A. Upside Down Principle in God’s Kingdom Economy:

#1 – God is the owner and extravagant giver of all things.

Psalm 24:1 *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;*

B. Transforming Truths:

1. God is the creator and owner of all our resources. Genesis 1
2. God’s nature is to extravagantly give us all things. Gen. 1:28-29; John 3:16; Rom. 8:31-32
3. We are made in God’s image to be extravagant givers. Genesis 1:27-28

4. We are separated from God and His Kingdom resources by sin, selfishness, fear, greed, etc. Genesis 3:8; Isaiah 59:2
5. We must first humble ourselves to receive from God before we can become extravagant givers. Lk. 18:17

C. Transforming Questions:

1. How would I live my life differently if I knew God was the owner of all my resources?
2. How would I live my life differently if I knew God was an extravagant giver?
3. How would I live my life differently if I knew I was created to be an extravagant giver?
4. How would I live my life differently if I knew that my sin separates me from God and His Kingdom resources?
5. How would I live my life differently if I knew I must first humble myself to receive all God has for me?

Prayer: *Lord, I humble myself before you to receive every spiritual blessing you have for me in Christ. Transform my sinful, selfish, fearful and greedy heart to one of extravagant generosity.*