

THE UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM

THE PARADOX OF BECOMING HUMAN

Part 1: *Dying To Live*

"The incarnation shows us that humanness and sinfulness are not synonymous.
Sinfulness is a perversion of humanness."
~ Myron S. Augsburger

Introduction – The Concept Of A “Kingdom”

Matthew 4:23; 9:35
Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:60
Acts 1:3; 8:12; 19:8; 28:23, 31
Colossians 1:13-14

Defining relationships with...

1. Our _____.
➤ Jesus becomes our _____. **2 Corinthians 4:5**
2. Our fellow _____.
➤ Kingdom citizens become our _____.
3. Other _____.
➤ Non-citizens become our _____.
➤ Evil becomes our _____.

Rumblings Of Renovations

Luke 3:3-6 – *Four surprises...*

- 1) _____ Valleys 2) _____ Mountains
3) _____ Curves 4) _____ Bumps

*Through the Kingdom, God wants to shatter the _____
that govern our lives.*

Death As The Doorway To Life

Luke 9:23-25
1 Corinthians 15:31

Embracing our death means everything becomes _____.

Romans 8:13
Colossians 3:5
Luke 5:32

Conclusion – Thy Kingdom Come

Matthew 6:10, 33

Home Church Questions...

WARMING UP...

- 1) After reviewing Sunday's message, share the one thing that most encouraged or challenged you.
- 2) Discuss the following quote from John MacArthur, Jr.: "*Jesus' summons to deny self and follow him was an invitation to salvation, not an offer of a 'higher life', or a second step of faith following salvation. The contemporary teaching that separates discipleship from salvation springs from ideas that are foreign to Scripture.*" Use Scripture to inform your discussion.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

- 3) Read about the clash of kingdoms in **Matthew 12:22-30**. a) What power did Jesus use to cast out demons? What is the relevance of this truth for us today? b) Who is the "strong man" and what does Jesus intend to do with him and his house? (Also see **Luke 11:21-23**.) c) How should Christians today move beyond *defending* the faith to *advancing* the Kingdom?
- 4) Read about the invisible Kingdom in **Luke 17:20-21**. a) What do you think the Pharisees were expecting the "Kingdom of God" to look like? How do religious people make the same mistake today? b) How could you use the last phrase in **v. 21** to help people understand the difference between religion and the Kingdom?
- 5) Read **Matthew 6:33**. a) How is seeking righteousness related to seeking the Kingdom of God? b) What is the result of seeking God's Kingdom as our top priority? Discuss.

SO WHAT?...

- 6) How "dead" are you, according to **Romans 8:13 & Colossians 3:5**? What areas of your life seem hardest to put to death? What could you do to assist in the execution?
- 7) Close by praying for God's Kingdom rule to fully come to your life (**Matthew 6:10**).

LOOKING AHEAD (ONLY IF YOU HAVE TIME)...

- 8) To prepare for next week's message, discuss the meaning of **Luke 14:26**.