

THE UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM

THE PARADOX OF BECOMING HUMAN

Part 4: Weakness As Strength

Introduction – The King Makes His Entrance

Matthew 1:18-2:12; Luke 2:1-40

- *Parents...*
- *Manger...*
- *Shepherds...*
- *Magi...*
- *Temple Blessing...*

God's Kind Of People

- *Jesus...*

Isaiah 53:2

- *The Disciples...*

Matthew 26:73
Matthew 9:9-13 & Luke 15:1-2
Luke 8:1-3
Mark 15:40-16:10
Mark 5:25-34

- *Paul...*

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Real vs. Religious Power

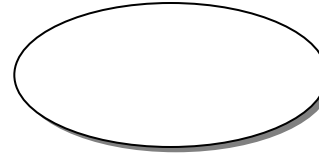
Matthew 23:6-12
Matthew 23:6; Mark 12:39; Luke 20:46
Matthew 18:2

Servant Leadership

John 13:12-14
Mark 10:42-45
John 10:4

Conclusion – The Word Of The Weak

Matthew 21:31; Matthew 20:1-16
2 Corinthians 4:7



Home Church Questions...

WARMING UP...

1) After reviewing Sunday's message, share the one thing that most encouraged or challenged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2) Read about God's 'gift' of weakness to Paul in **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**. a) What is the true source of Paul's thorn? b) What does this say about how God works out his sovereignty (total controlling power) in the universe? c) What do we learn about prayer from this passage? d) Using this passage as a launching pad, how could you answer someone who asked why you believe in God in a world full of suffering? (Try to avoid simplistic clichés.)

3) Read one of Christ's parables about kingdom reversals in **Matthew 20:1-16**. a) What would be the initial message of this parable, knowing that Jesus was teaching Jewish followers at this point? b) What principle could we extract from this parable that could be applied to individual situations in life? c) Using this parable as a base, how would you answer someone who complained that life was "unfair"? d) What situations in your life tempt you to have an attitude more like the first workers hired? e) Is there anything else we can learn about the Kingdom from this story?

SO WHAT?...

4) What is one way you could wash someone's feet in sacrificial service this week? How, specifically, will you do it? Remember to ask each other about this next week.