

The Upside Down Kingdom:

The First must be Last

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – January 24, 2016

Matt 20:16-28

16 "So the last will be first, and the first will be last." 17 Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, 18 "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death 19 and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!" 20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. 21 "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." 22 "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. 23 Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." 24 When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. 25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The kingdom of God...

1. DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MAN'S KINGDOM

Matt 20:16

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The kingdom of God...

2. CAN BE COSTLY

Matt 20:23

Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup...

The kingdom of God...

3. BEGINS AND ENDS WITH SERVING OTHERS

Matt 20:25-27

25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 NOT SO WITH YOU. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave

The kingdom of God...

4. REQUIRES NEW SPIRITUAL BIRTH

John 3:3-6

3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." 4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" 5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

The kingdom of God...

5. IS PERFECTLY DEMONSTRATED BY CHRIST

Matt 20:18-19

18 "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death 19 and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

Matt 20:28

... just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."