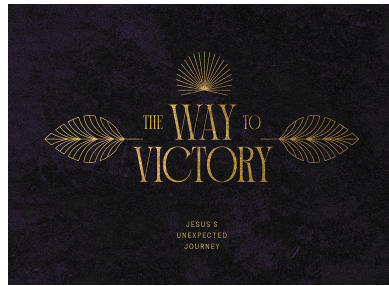


SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

The Upside Down Kingdom

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
April 3, 2022



The world defines success & victory as...

- The Up and to the Right Kingdom.



- Jesus offers us a different way to find out who we are...

- God defines success & victory as... The Upside-Down Kingdom.

Mark 8:27-30 (NLT) "Jesus and his disciples left Galilee and went up to the villages near Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"²⁸ 'Well,' they replied, 'some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the other prophets.'²⁹ Then he asked them, 'But who do you say I am?' Peter replied, 'You are the Messiah.'³⁰ But Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him."

Mark 8:31-32 (NLT) "Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead.³² As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things."

Why would it be absolutely necessary for Jesus to die?

- True forgiveness always entails suffering.
- God sends Jesus Christ as our substitute to suffer for us so we can be forgiven.

Mark 8:33 (NLT) Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. "Get away from me, Satan!" he said. "You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."

How do we experience true victory in life?

Mark 8:34-38 (NLT) Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.³⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.³⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?³⁷ Is anything worth more than your soul?³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

True victory in life comes when we...

- Give up our own way...
- Take up our cross...
- And follow Jesus as King.
- Jesus is offering us a whole new way of gaining an identity.

Where are you getting your identity today?

- You are loved and accepted when you look to Jesus as your true identity.

"If you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it." Jesus

Big Idea: Surrender your life to Jesus Christ to find your true self.

Then we can pray along with the Puritans... "Let me learn by paradox that the way down is the way up, that to be low is to be high, that the broken heart is the healed heart, that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit, that the repenting soul is the victorious soul, that to have nothing is to possess all, that to bear the cross is to wear the crown, that to give is to receive, that the valley is the place of vision" The Valley of Vision

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT).



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impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

The Upside Down Kingdom
#1 of 4 - April 3, 2022

- 1) Last week we looked at the issue of friendship. What has God been impressing on your heart as it relates to trusting Him in this area. How did it go with your action step? Where have you seen God working?
- 2) Take time to have one person explain and the practice the 3 Circles Gospel Presentation or share their testimony.
- 3) Read Mark 8:27-38 What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer / speaker and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about this passage?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in these passages for us and what does this tell us about God's "Upside Down Kingdom? "
- 6) What does Jesus mean when he says: "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.... If you give your life for my sake you will find it."
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? (Take some time for Listening Prayer). What does it mean for you to "give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow Jesus" today?
- 8) How do these verses call on you to change the way you live? What step will you take today? What principles do you need to pass on to others this week?



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