

# **Kingdom Logic [What Goes Down Must Come Up] Discussion Guide**

## **Summary**

This sermon explores the biblical paradox that "the way down is up" - that true greatness comes through humble service rather than self-promotion. Using James 4:10 and Matthew 23:11-12 as foundational texts, Jonathan contrasts worldly definitions of greatness (wealth, power, recognition) with God's kingdom logic where greatness equals servanthood. The message examines how Jesus embodied this paradox by coming as a servant king, and challenges believers to reject the culture of self-promotion in favor of biblical humility. Jonathan emphasizes that humility isn't thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less, and calls for intentional acts of service without seeking recognition.

## **Intro Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, ready to learn from Your Word. We live in a world that constantly tells us to promote ourselves and seek recognition, but Your kingdom operates on different principles. As we gather today, open our hearts and minds to understand Your truth, even when it challenges our natural thinking. Help us to be receptive to what You want to teach us through this time together. Give us the courage to examine our own lives and see where we might be seeking our own glory instead of Yours. Holy Spirit, guide our discussion and help us grow closer to You and to each other. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Ice Breaker**

What's one skill or talent you have that most people don't know about, and how did you discover it?

## **Key Verses**

- James 4:10
- Matthew 23:11-12
- Matthew 20:26-28
- Proverbs 16:18
- Philippians 2:3-11
- James 4:6

## **Questions**

- How does our culture's definition of greatness differ from what Jesus teaches in Matthew 23:11-12? Can you think of specific examples?
- Jonathan mentioned that 'greatness and servanthood are not two different things that you balance - greatness IS servanthood.' How does this challenge your understanding of success?
- What are some ways that social media and modern culture encourage self-promotion? How can we navigate these platforms while maintaining biblical humility?
- Jesus said 'those who exalt themselves will be humbled.' Why do you think pride is inherently unstable, and what examples have you seen of this principle in action?
- The sermon distinguished between 'thinking less of yourself' versus 'thinking of yourself less.' What's the difference, and why is this distinction important?

- How did Jesus demonstrate this paradox of humble greatness throughout His life and ministry? What specific examples come to mind?
- What are some practical ways we can 'humble ourselves before the Lord' in our daily lives without it becoming performative or fake?
- Jonathan challenged us to find one way to serve without seeking recognition this week. What barriers or fears might prevent us from doing this, and how can we overcome them?

## **Life Application**

This week, identify one specific way you can humble yourself and serve others without seeking recognition or credit. This could be helping a coworker, serving your family, volunteering in your community, or meeting a need you've noticed. Do this act of service with a genuinely humble heart, focusing on blessing others rather than how it might benefit you. Pay attention to how God meets you in these moments of humble service and notice any changes in your heart or perspective.

## **Key Takeaways**

- True greatness in God's kingdom is defined by servanthood, not self-promotion or worldly success
- The paradox 'the way down is up' means that humbling ourselves before God leads to Him lifting us up in honor
- Pride is inherently unstable and leads to a fall, while humility creates lasting, genuine influence and respect
- Biblical humility means thinking of yourself less, not thinking less of yourself... it's accurate self-knowledge in light of God's grace

- Jesus perfectly demonstrated this paradox by giving up His divine privileges to serve as our sacrifice, resulting in Him ultimately being lifted up in honor

## **Ending Prayer**

Father, thank You for this time together and for the truth of Your Word that challenges and transforms us. We confess that humility doesn't come naturally to us... we often want recognition and credit for what we do. Help us to have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had, choosing to serve others above ourselves. This week, as we look for opportunities to humble ourselves and serve without seeking recognition, meet us in those sacred moments. Show us what true greatness looks like through Your eyes. Transform our hearts to desire Your approval above human applause. Help us to trust You with the outcomes as we seek to live out this upside-down kingdom logic. Draw us closer to You as we learn to walk in humility and service. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.