

“UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM”

EASTER 2024

Doing things a little backwards!

Galatians 3:13 But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”

TO UNPACK THIS.....WE GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING!

Genesis 1 GOD CREATES THE EARTH!

Genesis 2 GOD CREATES HUMANS!

Chapter 3 FALL OF MAN!

-Root problem exposed: Man wants to be like God!

-Devil was a fallen Angel

Genesis 2:15-25 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

Don't eat from the ONE tree! SIMPLE! RULE.....CONSEQUENCE! DEATH

-WELL.....THEY ATE THE FRUIT!

Next: consequences handed out!

Genesis:3:14-15 So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

We see the foreshadowing of Jesus!

-The divine offspring from the Seed of Abraham through the line of David who would CRUSH the head of Satan, but Satan would cause injury!

SO MUCH HERE!!!!

Genesis 3:16-19 To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.” ¹⁷ To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

CONSEQUENCES.....HARD WORK & DEATH!

THIS WAS THE CURSE BROUGHT ON ALL HUMANITY FOR SIN!

Galatians 3:13 But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing.

EVERYTHING WAS REVERSED BECAUSE OF THE SACRIFICE JESUS MADE!

EVERYTHING ABOUT THE STORY OF JESUS IS BACKWARDS!

- He wasn't conceived like a normal human! He was the "Son of God."
- He wasn't born into royalty.....He was born in a manger.
- He was rejected as a Rabbi in his home town.
- He picked disciples every other Rabbi would have rejected.
- He didn't live an elite lifestyle.....He was one of the people.
- The government took wealth, and he gave freely.
- He spoke truth, did miracles, and was run out of many villages.
- He had no home and told his disciples to follow him.
- He traveled and preached for 3 ½ years about God's Kingdom.
- He healed people, delivered them, set them free.
- AND the people wanted him to set up his Kingdom!

SO WHAT DID HE TEACH?

Luke 4:16-21 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read,¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” ²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

THEY DID NOT LIKE THAT!!!! THEY KICKED HIM OUT OF TOWN!

-Actually tried to push him off a cliff!

JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

-3 ½ years of public ministry.....126 times in the gospels

Jesus went to live in Capernaum and recruited his disciples and began to preach!

Matthew 4:17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

JESUS WAS TEACHING THAT HIS KINGDOM IS NOT LIKE THE KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD! (THE UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM)

Matthew 4:23-25 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. ²⁴ News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. ²⁵ Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

Normal thinking: Jesus was here to set up a KINGDOM!

-That is all people knew! (King Herod, The Roman Empire, Oppression)

Here is Jesus proclaiming something totally different!

Matthew 4:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

MAIN LESSONS:

The less you judge people....the more free you are! (less you will be judged)

The more generous you are....the richer you are.

The weaker you are.....the stronger you are in the Kingdom of God.

The greatest leader is the greatest servant. (Jesus washed their feet)

The be first..... you must serve and be last.

True victory comes through surrender. Giving up control!

The more you lose yourselfthe more you will find yourself.

To truly live you must die to yourself. (More of God and less of me)

Love your enemies and bless those that curse you. (Imperial Law)

If a roman soldier says carry his things for one mile....go two!

Pride leads to destruction.....God hears the prayers from humble hearts.

Luke 18:15-18 People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." ¹⁷ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Not Building for now.....for future in heaven. Treasures in Heaven.

MOST PIVOTAL.....Not the law that leads to salvation.....it is faith in Jesus!

THE PEOPLE WANTED HIM TO BE THERE KING.....NOW!!

He fed 5000 (He was meeting their needs) THEY WANTED MORE!

John 6:14-15 After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.”¹⁵ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

-The people wanted to make him their KING!
EVEN UP TO PALM SUNDAY AND THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM!

-IT WAS NOT WHAT EVERYONE EXPECTED!
In the ancient Middle Eastern world, leaders rode horses if they rode to war, but donkeys if they came in peace.

Zechariah 9:9-10 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

The Message:

HE WAS NOT COMING TO FIGHT.....HE WAS COMING TO SURRENDER!

HE WAS NOT COMING TO SET UP HIS KINGDOM NOW.....HE WAS LOOKING FAR BEYOND THE HERE AND NOW INTO “ETERNITY.”

-Spent much of the last week of his life explaining the plan!!

THE BIG PICTURE! THE MISSION!

Luke 17:20-21 Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed,²¹ nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is in your midst.”

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS A DIFFERENT WAY OF THINKING!

- The kingdom of this world is about power, greed, riches & dominance.
- The Kingdom Jesus demonstrated was selfless, humble, generous and eternal!

TWO VERY OPPOSITE AGENDAS! “THE UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM”

JESUS WAS NOT COMING TO JERUSALEM FIGHT.....

.....HE WAS COMING TO SURRENDER!

Luke 22:42-44 **“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”** ⁴³ **An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.** ⁴⁴ **And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.**

JESUS KNEW THE PENALTY HE WOULD PAY TO REVERSE THE CURSE!

THE LAW CALLED FOR BLOOD!

John 17:1-5 **After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.** ² **For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.** ³ **Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.** ⁴ **I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.** ⁵ **And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.**

Philippians 2:6-11 **“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness,** ⁸ **And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!**

Colossians 2:13-15 **God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,** ¹⁴ **having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.** ¹⁵ **And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.**

John 3:3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 6:38-40 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

SO HOW ARE WE “SAVED”

-Not about what we do!

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—²not by works, so that no one can boast.

IT IS ABOUT WHAT WE BELIEVE!

LORDS PRAYER:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;

Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen