



Sermon Discussion Guide

Upside Down Kingdom: Get Used to Diff't Week 2: Kingdom of God Jeremiah 9:24 | July 5, 2020

Big Idea

There is a process by which those of the Kingdom of God are to live together and interact. God's Kingdom consists of love, justice, and righteousness.

Opening Questions

1. How did you celebrate the 4th of July?
2. Are there any things that make your skin crawl when they begin being discussed (i.e. politics)? Why?

General Sermon Thoughts/Questions

1. Recap what you remember, or have heard about, the political & social environment that Jesus was born into. Are there similarities to that today? Differences? What do you think were some of the struggles people faced as they lived in the environment of Jesus' day?

Key Scripture Questions

1. Read **Matthew 6:9-10**. Based on these verses, who is Jesus clearly calling those who pray to acknowledge as their Lord? What did the sermon draw out regarding what is often tempting to put in His place? Are or have you been guilty of that? Describe.
2. The sermon covered how a political system is really, at its core, a process by which people live together. And thus, the Bible could be described (among many other things) as a political manual for how the people of God should live. Before we dig into some of the "how-to's" from the sermon read **2 Timothy 3:14-17, Philippians 2:12-16, and James 2:14-19**. What do you see these verses communicating about what we are to do out of a basis of our faith in regard to how we are to "live together" in this world?
3. In regard to specific character traits that God leads His Kingdom by, and thus calls us to follow Him in, read **Jeremiah 9:24**. What are the three ways in which God acts per this passage? And what emotion does it say in results in for Him?
4. One of the traits that should have been mention above was steadfast love. The sermon pointed out that love is a verb (action). In what ways could you extend more love to the world around you? Go read **1 Corinthians 13:4-7** for some assistance in answering, if need be.
5. Read **Luke 14:7-14**. How does this teaching touch on, or remind you, of the 3 ways that God asks us to

conduct ourselves within the political framework of the Kingdom of God? Does it remind you of one of the 3 ways more than the others? If so, why and how?

6. What are examples where you have been a part of extending or receiving steadfast love; justice; righteousness (i.e. doing the right thing out of love for God and others) toward another?

7. Anything else you noticed or realized in the sermon?

Application Questions

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon &/or our discussion?

2. What is something God wants you to now do?

3. Beyond prayer for each other is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?

Prayer Time

“Dear Heavenly Father, politics are such a *hot-button* issue in our world! And as we realize that the ways of Your Kingdom prescribe how You desire Your people to interact with one another; and are thus a political system, in and of themselves; help us to embrace Your ways. And help us to not fall to having any lesser lord in our life than You, the Lord...our LORD! Amen.”