



Sermon Discussion Guide

Upside Down Kingdom: Get Used to Different

Week 5: Kingdom Invitation

Luke 9:23-25 | July 26, 2020

Big Idea

It's easy to merely identify as being a Christian, especially in the United States, but it's a whole other thing to be what Jesus asks us to be, followers of him.

Opening Questions

1. Have you ever met someone that was so passionate about something (a sport, hobby, product, etc) that it was unmistakable? What made it unmistakable?
2. What knowledge do you have regarding the "privileges" we have faith-wise, as Americans, based upon our freedoms that other countries may not have?

General Sermon Thoughts/Questions

1. As we conclude the Upside Down Kingdom series this week and think about all of the weeks of it, including this one, what has stood out to you and impacted you most?

Key Scripture Questions

1. This week we discussed how the Upside Down Kingdom that Jesus taught about & modeled was really a return to what originally was. This entailed talking about Genesis 1-3. What do you recall about Genesis 1 & 2 and what it was like (where was God; how did he interact with people, etc.). Read **Genesis 3:23-24** and share your thoughts on what occurred here and why? What was the result of that?
2. Read **Luke 4:18-19**. This is referred to as Jesus' Mission Statement (aka Nazareth Manifesto). Based upon the discussion from question 1, immediately above, what is so important about Jesus' statement?
3. Read **Luke 9:23-25**. Does the way that many identifying Christians live; spend their days match up with Jesus' call here? Why or why not? How may be the freedoms and privileges of being an American Christian impact that?

4. Read **Galatians 2:20 & 5:24** while continuing to reflect upon Luke 9:23-25. What description of time do we see from Luke 9 regarding the taking up of our own cross? What might living out all of these Bible verses look like specifically for you on a daily basis?
5. Read **Luke 18:18-30**. Jesus ultimately came for and calls us to surrender and sacrifice, as opposed to comfort and ease. What temporary things (perhaps things of the American Dream) are difficult for you to surrender up to God and trust him ultimately with? Why? What is one step you could take toward releasing that?

Application Questions

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and 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, thank You for this series and today’s clarity of it all - that we must follow Christ and surrender daily and live for you and others. That is what you did for me and call me to do for you and others all for Your glory and to advance your Kingdom. I need to ask that you, through your Holy Spirit, would help me in living for you and in this Upside Down (which is in actuality, right side up) way. Amen!”