

**What we've discovered in the Book of Mark is that God has reversed the positions of insiders and outsiders.**

But many who are first will be last, and the last first." Mark 10:31

**There is nothing more spiritually deadly than to be morally (self righteousness) and socially successful.**

You see religion says up is up,  
you perform well, you do your part,  
you follow the rules,  
then God takes you home.

**But the gospel says the way up is down.**

You have to admit you're a moral failure, you have to admit you're inept at finding God in your life, and then and only then can you know the incredible grace and mercy God offers you through His Son.

And when you begin to understand you're not saved by your performance and recognition and status,

but rather by the grace of God

that will break the power of those things in your life.

Instead they become tools in your belt to serve others.



The story of the King... who came to serve.

**Part 12:**

**The Operating Principle of God's Kingdom**

Mark Chapter 4 verses 21-34

**"If you want to go up in life you must first go down"**

**The Importance Of The Kingdom Of God:**

Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. 32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade." Mark 4:30-32

**Jesus is saying the Kingdom of God is the bringing of this great world tree of the prophets of old.**

King Nebuchadnezzar's Vision as recorded by Daniel:  
These are the visions I saw while lying in bed: I looked, and there before me stood a tree in the middle of the land. Its height was enormous. 11 The tree grew large and strong and its top touched the sky; it was visible to the ends of the earth. 12 Its leaves were beautiful, its fruit abundant, and on it was food for all. Under it the wild animals found shelter, and the birds lived in its branches; from it every creature was fed.

Daniel 4:10-12 (Ezekiel 17)

**In this image they're getting across the idea of the whole history of the world.**

**Here's what that history is; originally God dwelt among us.**

Symbolically **the prophets foresee a day when God will build a tree, or stairs or mountain where he will reconnect heaven and earth.**

And when the **presence of God is reunited with earth**, when the presence of God is **reenters the earth**, the earth then again will become a garden.

### **Why is this so important that God's salvation is a kingdom?**

#### *1. God's salvation isn't just about you but the entire world*

For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. 20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. Romans 8:19-21

#### *2. Every kingdom must have a king; the story is about God*

Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Psalm 100:3

### **The Guiding Principal of the Kingdom Of God.**

"With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. 25 Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them." Mark 4:24,25

*Literally verse 24 is saying:*

The measure you measure will be measured.

*Here's simply what this means:*

The people who give the most will have the most.

*Vs 25 says givers will have more to give, keepers, will have less and less to hold onto.*

The way to fullness is to empty yourself.  
Only by living generously will you truly become rich.

If you give in order to get, you haven't given, only if you give not caring what you get back have you truly given.

It is like a mustard seed, which is **the smallest of all seeds** on earth. 32 Yet when planted, it grows and **becomes the largest** of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

Mark 4:31,32

#### **The way up is to go down.**

The way to influence and power is not to seek influence and power, but only to serve.

**What that means is the kingdom of God**  
is just the world turned upside down.