



The Upside Down Kingdom Mark 14:43-52

I. The Clash Between Two Kingdoms:

Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders. Mark 14:43

Now in the kingdom of this world the sword is at the top. The financial, military, and political strength, are compelling our behavior. Therefore we value these things in the world.

Jesus rejects it categorically.

“Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? 49 Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. Mark 14:48,49

So what does Jesus propose to put in it’s place?

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

21 Blessed are you who hunger, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep, for you will laugh. 22 Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you ...24 “But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. 25 Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. Luke 6:20-25

II. Jesus' Kingdom is a really, really, really, hard place to live:

Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Mark 14:47

The Gospel of John tells us this person was Peter. (Figures)
When push came to shove what were his instincts?

We merge the power model into Jesus model and before we know it the first thing we do is grab for our own sword.

The kingdom of this world says:

I'm going to put myself above others.
I'm going to take the power.
I'm going to make them do what they need to do.

Jesus' kingdom says:

I'm going to love my enemies
I'm not going to repay evil with evil
I'm going to overcome evil with good.
I'm going to give up my right to power.
I'm going to give up my rights to wealth.
I'm going to give up my reputation.
I'm going to give up my life.

Shame/Honor based cultures versus Charity based cultures:

When the European societies did convert to Christianity they were far from consistent. "They merged their Christian value (charity) with their older one (shame/honor), and that's the reason why European Christianity preached the Crusades.

In the Kingdom of God we prize and value weakness, poverty, and suffering and rejection.

Application 1: Wherever to we see these things in others we value them, we don't reject them for it. We prize them. Their lives are precious to us.

Application 2: You cannot get involved into an emotionally draining life without that draining you to some extent. So expect a certain measure of hardship.

Here's the key:

Because the things at the top of the list in the kingdom of the world—power, success, money, reputation

They don't control us anymore.

That is the way that Jesus Christ's kingdom changes the world.

III. Where do we get the strength to live in God's Kingdom?

Then everyone deserted him and fled. 51 A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, 52 he fled naked, leaving his garment behind. Mark 14:50,51

When you see Jesus reversing the roles of this world by serving others even dying for them, if you see Him as your example to primarily follow --- it will crush you.

However if you see Him not primarily as your example to follow, but rather as your substitute, it will save you, and melt your heart to take up His cross and follow Him.