

THE KINGDOM IS A REVERSAL

Matthew 20:1-16, Luke 18:15-30

Jesus' teaching about the kingdom continuously challenges those who believe they have done everything to be part of it. He teaches the kingdom belongs to children, the poor, the hungry, and those who mourn. It belongs to the overlooked and underestimated.

☐ **Monday: Read Matthew 20:1–7.**

In Jesus' parable, the landowner doesn't just hire the best day laborers to work all day, but gives the workers no one else has hired for the day an opportunity even when starting later in the day. When have you been surprised by God's grace, either in what you received or in how generously it was extended to someone else?

☐ **Tuesday: Read Matthew 20:8–12.**

Those who worked all day grumbled when latecomers received the same wage; their response to abundant generosity was envy.

How do you respond when God's kindness seems "unfair" by the world's standards? How does our response to someone else's good fortune reveal what is in our hearts?

☐ **Wednesday: Read Matthew 20:13–16.**

Jesus concludes this teaching by saying, "So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Where might Jesus be inviting you to step out of competition and comparison, and into gratitude for and participation in God's grace, freely given?

☐ **Thursday: Read Luke 18:15–17.**

When the disciples tried to turn away the children, Jesus welcomed them and said, "The kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

What do you think it means to receive the kingdom "like a child?"

☐ **Friday: Read Luke 18:18–23.**

Jesus responds to a wealthy man with power and authority who wants to know how to obtain eternal life, but His answer – to give everything away – makes the man sad.

What possessions, habits, or things of this world have power in your life?

How can they keep you from a deeper and fuller relationship with Jesus?

☐ **Saturday: Read Luke 18:24–30.**

When the disciples question who can be saved, Jesus reminds them that what is impossible for humans is possible with God.

Where do you need to stop striving to earn the kingdom, and instead surrender control to God and trust God's power to make the impossible possible in you?

The kingdom isn't about status; it's about surrender.

Call to Action: Embrace humility and align with the vulnerable.