

Sunday Leftovers

Upside down (Look Again)

What's this message about?

Have you ever wondered why some people have such a difficult time accepting Jesus' teachings? For some, it is because the Jesus they have heard of is not the Jesus of the Bible. For others, the difficulty lies in the fact that He came to fix a broken world. That in itself would not be a deterrent, but in presenting a remedy, He was bucking up against common, ingrained teachings. His solution was to turn our world upside down by going against popular convention: The world teaches that power and control are signs of greatness, but Jesus taught that in order to be great you must serve. This and His other counter culture teachings like: the last will be first and the first will be last, turn the other cheek, and giving your life away in order to truly feel alive became the spark that initiated a spiritual awakening that is still being felt today. We can't come away from Jesus's teaching and think the world is essentially the same as it was before he came. Everything is different...Looking back at what He taught and how it has changed the way the whole world thinks and acts is another reason why we need to "look again" at the Jesus of the Bible.

Questions to ponder:

What do you think was the main point of Matt's sermon?

If you were asked to summarize "why Jesus came" in a brief statement, what would you say?

How are Jesus' teachings upside down from what the world teaches? Give some examples?

How does knowing this affect your relationship with God and those around you?

- 1. What does this say about God?*
- 2. What does this say about me?*
- 3. What does this say about how God wants me to be?*

Do something about it Consider your current perspectives with regard to power/control, serving, finances, etc. Are they in line with what Jesus taught? If not, what can you do to start heading in a direction that is not only glorifying to God, but becomes a blessing to you? Is it possible that your role in turning the world upside down (like Jesus) is to start with flipping your current ideas, one idea at a time?

Scripture references: Matthew 5:1-11, 21-48; 10:39; 20:1-16; Mark 10:41-45; Luke 19:16-26