

UPSIDE DOWN INSIDE OUT

AMANDA BEGGS | BLESSED WEEK 1

Do I really believe flourishing is found through the upside-down, inside out Kingdom of God?

The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom
(*Matthew 4:23-25*)

The gospel of the Kingdom: The good news that the Kingdom is here now and seeking it leads to human flourishing. As disciples live out the ways of the Kingdom they will bring it to earth.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT IS NOT

To fully understand the Sermon on the Mount we have to understand what it is not:

1. The Sermon on the Mount is not a description of how to enter the Kingdom of Heaven but a description of *who* a disciple is.
2. The Sermon on the Mount is not an idealistic vision of the future but a present reality that will be complete in the future.
3. The Sermon on the Mount is not a set of ethics that can be separated from the person and work of Jesus.

UPSIDE DOWN /INSIDE OUT KINGDOM

The Kingdom is Upside Down: The power structures and economy of this Kingdom look shockingly different from the kingdoms of this world.

The Kingdom is Inside Out: The reign of Jesus in our hearts leads to the rule of Jesus over our actions.

BLESSED IN THE KINGDOM

Matthew 5:1-12

Macarism: *a statement that ascribes happiness or flourishing to a particular person or state. A macarism is a pronouncement, based on observation, that a certain way of being in the world produces human flourishing and felicity.*

Are we pursuing what we define as blessing or would our beatitudes match the cultural narrative of our day? Our cultural narrative teaches:

Blessed are the wealthy for they will live the good life.

Blessed are the beautiful for they will never be lonely.

Blessed are those who find their truth for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are those who hold onto offenses for they will have the upper hand.

Blessed are those who follow all of the rules for they will earn God's.

Blessed are those who never suffer for they will live free of pain.

If we are followers of Jesus we will pursue a way of being that countercultural and counterintuitive -we will be distinct.

KINGDOM DISTINCTIVES

The Sermon on the Mount draws out 5 Distinctives of a Disciple. And they all start with P ... which I love.

01 Distinct Posture:

Citizen of World: Stand tall-pride and self-righteousness.

Citizen of Kingdom: Bow low-humility and spiritual poverty.

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. *Matthew 5:20*

02 Distinct Priorities:

Citizen of World: Prioritize personal happiness.

Citizen of Kingdom: Prioritize personal holiness.

If you are curious what you prioritize, it's pretty easy to figure it out.

- Where do you spend your time?
- Where do you spend your money?
- Where do you put your hope?

Matthew 6:31-33

03 Distinct Perspective:

Citizen of World: This world is ultimate.

Citizen of Kingdom: This world is fleeting.

A citizen of the Kingdom brings the culture of the Kingdom to earth while longing for home.

Matthew 6:19-21

04

Distinct Practices:

Citizen of World: Treats others like we feel they deserve.

Citizen of Kingdom: Treats others like we want to be treated.

Would someone be able to look at the way I treat people –even my enemies –and see the Kingdom of God?

05

Distinct Path:

Citizen of World: Allegiance to self.

Citizen of Kingdom: Allegiance to Jesus.

Matthew 7:13-14

There's a difference between identifying as a Christian and living as a disciple.

FLOURISHING

Might there be places in your life where you are resisting God's plan for flourishing? Where you are rejecting blessing because it doesn't seem good or make sense?

Pray:

God, offend my mind as I study the Sermon on the Mount?

God, show me what kingdom is I'm living for

God, where am I resisting your plan for flourishing?