

## The Big Story of the Kingdom of God

### **The One with the upside down Kingdom**

We are all living out a story.

We want to live out Gods story. Gods story is not like the stories of this world. It is a story of a different Kingdom. The Kingdom of God.

- Last week we were learning about how when we truly step into the story of the Kingdom of God, we are losing the stories of this world. We are losing our old value systems. For those of us who don't like our stories, this is good news. For those who do like our story, this seems harder. Jesus always told us that.
- God has always invited His people to enter into a different story. This is a story which sometimes doesn't make sense to the world around us. In fact it can look like foolishness. This Kingdom God is inviting us into is actually sometimes very upside down, in the worlds eyes. Todays talk is **the one with the upside down kingdom.**
- We want to learn more about this, because we can't step into a story if we don't understand what the story is. We will have so many questions and doubts and may even run away from our faith. Unless we understand what invitation Jesus is making and how it is so counter cultural and ultimately lifechanging.

### **Lets pray**

- Way before Jesus came to earth as a man, there was a guy called Moses.
- God talked to Moses a lot and Moses used to go up on a mountain to hear from God and then come down and tell the people what He said.
- One day Moses came down the mountain with a tablet of stone which had the ten commandments written on it. Exodus 20. It was like God had written a letter to people telling them more about His values "the letter of the law"
- Then Jesus came in person. You know the difference between a letter and an in person visit. You can see the person, how they act, how they behave. They invite you into their story. They explain their values to you in more detail.
- Tradition meant people understood what Jesus standing on a mountain meant. This was it. This was the time they would truly see and understand even more about the Kingdom of God, coming in a man, in Jesus.
- Jesus stood on a mountain one day and people came to him, one of the guys who was there, whose name was Matthew, wrote down what He said.

- Lets look at what Jesus told them about the Kingdom of Heaven. Imagine maybe all the things they expected him to say. “I have come to overthrow the government, I have come to feed all the poor people. I have come to give you all fancy cars (or camels, or donkeys...)”

## Matthew 5

**3** “Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**4**  
Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

**5**  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

**6**  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

**7**  
Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

**8**  
Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

**9**  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

**10**  
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**11** “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. **12** Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- Reactions from people. What? How am I blessed when I mourn? How come the world causes us to pity those who mourn, to see those who are suffering or humble or peacemakers, as weak? How am I blessed when I hunger for good?
- Yet God calls those people, us, blessed.
- Example of this week. That is where you find me. God reminded me of this verse.

Lamentations 3:21-24

**21 Yet this I call to mind**

**and therefore I have hope:**

**22**

**Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,  
for his compassions never fail.**

**23**

**They are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.**

**24**

**I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;  
therefore I will wait for him."**

- This has been Gods story all along. It is the big story of His Kingdom. Whatever the world deems weak God uses to shame the strong. Whenever we lose it, He has it. Whenever we want to fight back, often God calls us to be merciful too.
- Upside down example. Bend to look at something upside down. Uncomfortable.
- Practice. Acrobats. Through training you can become used to things being upside down. It can become your story too.
- Response. What if we even have to lay down our story of what we think being blessed looks like? Sometimes, don't we know people who have everything, celebrities, yet they end up saying they feel so empty and lost. Some who have even committed suicide.
- This doesn't mean having things is wrong, that isn't the point. It is all about where our values lie. Are our values Gods values. Do we realise our need for Him. Do we realise when we are ridiculed, He is standing for us.
- Different story. Different culture. Different Kingdom.
- Call band back
- What would it look like if the next time we see someone in a low place, we see it as part of the story of the Kingdom of God. What if we jump into that story and ask to pray for the Kingdom of God to come. What if we choose not to fight back
- I believe some of us need to repent for trying to write our own story. We can lean back in the loving arms of our Father, and trust His blessing and His heart for us. His good story for us, which goes on for all eternity. Example of this week.
- It is so much more than we see, hear or understand with our human eyes. We need Him to help us. *Let's receive revelation of His blessing being sung over us. Numbers 6. Moses. Blessing has always been part of the Big story of the Kingdom of God. The upside down Kingdom of God, is full of heavenly blessing.*