

# Upside-Down Kingdom Notes

John 18:33-38

Rev. Kyle Parks

August 21-22, 2021

**Main Point:** Earthly kingdoms are temporary, but God's Kingdom is eternal.

**Kingdoms of this world are \_\_\_\_\_.**

1. The history of the world is wrought with \_\_\_\_\_, bloodshed, and oppression.
2. People today are focused on the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - We try to fill our lives with so many things in order to be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The temporal world was never meant to make us happy.
  - Our desires are so \_\_\_\_\_, not just with people out there, but with people in here.
3. The earthly kingdoms we inhabit are finite and \_\_\_\_\_ and so are the things we spend the majority of our time doing.

**When truth is hard to find, we must cling to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture (Matthew 13).**

1. The kingdom was compared to a mustard seed and leaven because it goes from minuscule to \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 13:31-33).
  - There is gradual growth. Before you know it, it has become the largest thing around.
2. The kingdom was compared to hidden treasure and a pearl of great value because it is hard to find, but \_\_\_\_\_ obtaining at all costs (Matthew 13:44-46).
3. The way to Heaven is narrow (Matthew 7:13-14).
4. Matthew 10:39, 16:25, and Luke 17:33 all say "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."
  - Paradox – a seemingly \_\_\_\_\_ or self-contradictory statement or proposition that when investigated or explained may prove to be well founded or true.
5. Upside-down kingdom references.
  - The last will be first and first will be \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 20:16).
  - The greatest among you will be your servant (Matthew 23:11).
  - Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_...(Matthew 5:10).
  - He must increase but I must decrease (John 3:30).
  - When I am \_\_\_\_\_, then am I strong (2 Corinthians 12:10).
  - Die in order to truly live (Philippians 1:21, Matthew 16:24-25).
  - God exalts the humble and \_\_\_\_\_ the exalted (1 Peter 5:6, Ezekiel 21:26).
6. Pilate wanted to meet Jesus for himself to assess if He were an actual \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 33-36).

**The kingdom of God is \_\_\_\_\_ of this world.**

1. "Pilate expected to meet a sullen or belligerent \_\_\_\_\_ and met instead the calm majesty of confident superiority." – Expositor's Bible Commentary.
2. Some of Jesus' followers wanted to make Him their \_\_\_\_\_ King after the feeding of the 5,000 (John 6:14-15).
3. Peter tried to use \_\_\_\_\_ and even violence to stop this from happening (John 18:10-11).

**Followers of Jesus must bear witness to the \_\_\_\_\_.**

1. Since Jesus is the Truth, we must be \_\_\_\_\_ for the truth.
  - We must do our part to share the truth.
  - He is a king, but His kingdom is not of this world.
2. What do we mean by the Kingdom of God?
  - God's realm of rule in heaven and \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 6:10, 33).
  - It's not easy to \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom first (Luke 9:61-62).
  - The kingdom of God has come \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 10:8-11, 17:20-21).
  - The kingdom of God is not just something in the future, the kingdom of God is here \_\_\_\_\_.
3. We have lost \_\_\_\_\_ of the Kingdom of God.

**It doesn't matter how bad things get, we are still called to faithfulness.**

**Action steps**

1. Don't confuse opinions and personal convictions with biblical \_\_\_\_\_ and absolute truth.
  - Sacrificial love for others trumps individual soul \_\_\_\_\_ (Philippians 2, Ephesians 5).
2. Our main focus should not be \_\_\_\_\_ things.
  - The kingdoms of this world are fleeting, but the kingdom of God will last forever.
  - We are forerunners to Christ's second coming.
3. If you want to be great in the kingdom of God, then \_\_\_\_\_ like Jesus did.