

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our lives.

[22] He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. [23] And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, [24] "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. [25] When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' [26] Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' [27] But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' [28] In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. [29] And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. [30] And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

(Luke 13:22-30 ESV)

[20] And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. [21] "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. [22] "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! [23] Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

(Luke 6:20-23 ESV)

Sermon Series: Luke- Part 7: God's Kingdom Come!!! (Advent 2015)

Sermon Title: "The Upside-Down Kingdom"

Sermon Passage: Luke 13:22-30; 6:20-23

Sermon Outline:

I. GOD'S RIGHTSIDE-UP KINGDOM

Is God's kingdom upside-down or is it the world that is upside-down? How do you "get into" the kingdom?

II. GOD'S GRACE TO THE LOWLY

In Mary's prayer in Luke 1 (and also in Luke 6 and Luke 13), the kingdom promises a great reversal of fortunes. Why does the kingdom work this way?

Application: Rejoice!

Discussion Questions:

1. How do the priorities and values of the world conflict with priorities and values of God's kingdom? Give some specific examples from Mary's song in **Luke 1:46-55** and the sermon passages.
2. What is the significance of the image of the "narrow door" (**Luke 13:24**)? How do you get into the kingdom?
3. Who gets in the kingdom? What kinds of people is God opposed to? What kinds of people does He promise to work for? How is this "good news" (i.e. gospel)?
4. Our response to God's work should be joy- joy like Mary's joy. Are you joyful? How can you "catch" joy?
5. Pray for one another and ask God to give you joy!