

BACK TO BASICS

The Upside Down Kingdom

Luke 6:12-26

ON THE MOUNTAINSIDE – CHOOSING THE 12 APOSTLES (vv.12-16)

WHERE? ▶ Mountainside in Galilee

WHAT? ▶ Jesus prays all night

PRINCIPLE #1: Major decisions in life should be bathed in prayer.

PRINCIPLE #2: Spiritual leadership is critical to kingdom advancement.

▶ Jesus chooses the 12 apostles

ON THE PLAIN – MESSAGE OF THE UPSIDE-DOWN

KINGDOM (vv.17-26)

WHERE? Mountainous plain in Galilee

WHO? ▶ 12 apostles

▶ Many disciples

▶ Multitude of poor, hungry, sick, desperate & curious people

WHAT? ▶ Redefining the "Happy Life"

PRINCIPLE #3: You are not primarily a human being having a temporary spiritual experience; you are a spiritual being having a temporary human experience.

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT HAPPINESS JESUS' WAY

- ① Jesus' new community is one of heart alignment
- ② Jesus intended His new community to be a prophetic people
- ③ Jesus' new community seems rather upside - down

PRINCIPLE #4: Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.

- ④ Jesus is not giving us a recipe for how to gain the Kingdom by our own efforts
- ⑤ Note the repetition of "now" in this passage

PRINCIPLE #5: Don't live like there's no tomorrow.

LifeGroup Questions - Doing Life Together

Week of May 6-12, 2018

30 A.D.

THE JESUS STORY

The Upside Down Kingdom

Luke 6:12-26

Sermons can be viewed online at creeksideeg.com/sermon

Questions are based on the NIV translation of the Bible

PRAYER

Begin your time together by praising God and asking Him to guide the discussion of your group.

MY STORY

1. Describe a time when you thought that getting a particular thing would make you truly happy, but after getting it, you were disappointed.

DIGGING DEEPER

2. What insight, principle or point from Sunday's message gave you new insight into true happiness? Explain.
3. **Read Luke 6:12-16.** Why is it somewhat surprising that Jesus spent the whole night in prayer before choosing the 12 Apostles? Explain. What might have been the content of His prayers to the Father?
4. Have you ever spent extended time in prayer regarding an important decision? What was the outcome?
5. **Read Luke 6:13-19.** When the newly appointed 12 Apostles came down off of the mountain and saw more of Jesus' amazing ministry, what do you think was their state of mind about their future in following Jesus? Explain. If you had been in their shoes, what would your attitude and state of mind have been?
6. **Read Luke 6:20-23.** What did Jesus call blessed in these verses, and what reasons did He give for calling it that? How does the word "now" (repeated 4 times) figure in to what Jesus said?

7. What woes did Jesus pronounce in these verses, and what reasons does He give for pronouncing them? In your estimation, why is it often easy for people who have an abundance of worldly possessions to forget about God in this life?

DIGGING EVEN DEEPER

8. According to the verses below, how can being poor, hungry, sad, hated or reviled be a blessing for the sake of the Kingdom of God?

2 Corinthians 6:3-10

Acts 13:44-52

Acts 14:1-7

TAKING IT HOME

9. Circle the following statement(s) that best describe your current prayer life. Are there any changes you feel led to make?
 - a. Honestly, I am too busy to pray much.
 - b. I usually only pray or request prayer when all else has failed.
 - c. My prayers are usually quick and to the point. I spend little extended time in prayer.
 - d. I have a fairly consistent prayer time with God each day as part of my devotional time.
 - e. I regularly spend extended time in prayer with God and converse with Him throughout the day.
10. Have you ever suffered loss (i.e., faced economic hardship, insults, hurtful behavior, attacks on your faith, etc.) for the sake of the Kingdom of God? Although you may not have felt blessed in the moment, what eventual good came out of it? (Hint: Luke 6:23)

PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the needs of your group and ask God to help you learn to do what it takes to reach people for the sake of the Kingdom of God.