



Week 2:

## The Upside-Down Kingdom

Jesus' parables highlight how different the Kingdom is from how his contemporaries thought it would be, and how "upside-down" it is compared to the values of his society and ours. The Kingdom starts small, but grows to be great. It starts growing, but it is surrounded by weeds. Sometimes the signs of the emerging Kingdom can be disappointing, but we need to stay hopeful and watch for the signs that it is appearing.

[King Herod was] preoccupied with the birth of a frail child whom he thought of as a rival.... the king and his counsellors sensed that the foundations of their power were crumbling. They feared that the rules of the game were being turned upside down, that appearances were being unmasked. A whole world built on power, on success, possessions and corruption was being thrown into crisis by a child!

Pope Francis, Epiphany 2014



God has yet more in store for us, and therefore we must refuse to accept things as they are. The reign of God will not come out of the work of our hands alone, but we are given glimpses of the Kingdom in the midst of our labors, and these glimpses are enough to sustain us and move us forward...

Rev. Jeffrey K. Krehbiel



### Learn More on the Website:

#### **Topsy-Turvy Temptations and Reversals**

Jesus' desert ordeal parallels temptations he would flip in his ministry: political dominance, religious piety, and economic power. The Magnificat and Beatitudes also voice stark reversals of the Kingdom.

#### **Hope and Change**

Pessimism can shut us down in seeking the Kingdom, as John Mayer's song "Waiting on the World to Change" suggests. How do we motivate ourselves with Kingdom hope?

#### **Songs From the Kingdom**

David Wilcox's "Show the Way" tells why we have hope in a broken world; Jesse Manibusan's "What Sort of King" speaks to Jesus' upside-down kingship; Margaret Becker's "Hope in a Hopeless World" is a challenging call-to-action.

Visit: <http://gospel.link/shouldbe2>