

INVERSION

Isaiah 40:21-31 | 1 Corinthians 9:16-27 | Mark 1:29-39

The _____ down

For the sake of _____

A call for true _____

READ. REFLECT. RESPOND. REMEMBER.

One of the problems I run into is that I've said all this before, mostly because Scripture tends to repeat itself (there's only a few main themes in it, after all), I say things and wonder if they will sink in. In particular, the upside down, inverted nature of the Kingdom of Jesus is an essential piece to understand what is happening in Scripture. Jesus will address this several times, and Paul takes it up in his letters. Paul, who knew how crazy and upside down it all was, said this is the way that leads to life.

Read Matthew 20:20-28.

Reflect

Jesus has already been inverting the power structure of discipleship, but he tackles it full on here – the son of Man has come to serve and give his life for many. What has to happen for his disciples in order for that to be who they are? What has to happen in us as believers for that to happen?

I love counterfactual history (“What if”) stuff. I think of things all the time that what if this had been different... I invite you to think of a point of history that we as Christians had been invited to speak differently, to be those who serve instead of those who were served. Certainly, one of the places where this would be true is in the American expression of slavery, where people were simply property, like a couch or chair, stripped of their humanity. What if we had taken a different path? How can we repent as people of the path that was taken?

Respond & Remember

Can you drink the cup I am going to drink? (That is, can you suffer as I will?)