

## Upside Down Spirituality

Plan:

September 16<sup>th</sup> - Introduction

September 23<sup>rd</sup> - Part One - Ourselves

September 30<sup>th</sup> - Part Two - Our Lives

October 7<sup>th</sup> - Part Three - Our Churches

### *Introduction*

What two questions were asked on the slip of paper?

Does it matter what one believes? Or is anything okay, just so long as you feel good about it?

What change of approach would Chad take in answering those questions?

Who is the “touchable truth?”

What true accusation was made about the Paul and Silas in Thessalonica?

Who is the chief culprit?

Are there any examples of God being treated like a part-time repair man? How about Jesus as Half cheerleader, half life coach?

Did anything about George Foreman surprise you?

What do you consider to be the good life?

What’s God’s nuclear option?

What might be the results of God’s foolishness?

What does Chad mean when he says, “Failures of a faithful life?”

## Part One - Ourselves

### *Chapter 1 - the Good New that God Doesn’t Believe in You*

How kind has the year been to your calendar? Which has been one of those years?

How does Nebuchadnezzar’s experience relate to our lives?

What does Chad say is the ultimate problem?

What are the “little-l” laws and when is it’s “high and holy day”?

What is the “profoundly better” thing that God does than “believe in us”?

### *Chapter 2 - What If I Just Want to Be Average?*

What is “tantamount to heresy”?

Sin never wants to be sin it always wants to be ...

What’ the difference between ambition and a good work ethic?

What does Philippians encourage?

Why are children such great models of greatness?

How are adults “professional pretenders”

### *Chapter 3 - Go Home, Heart, You’re Drunk*

What is the Biblical idea of the “heart” vs the “Hallmark” view?

Is following your heart always wrong?

What is God’s take on the heart?

What’s the point of “taking up your cross”?

What does it mean to let “good things run wild”? What does it look like?

## **Part Two - Our Lives**

### **Chapter 4 - Supermoms, Uber Dads...**

What is Chad's biggest regret with his children?

What are all the "Little-L's" of parenting?

What does Chad mean our primary identity is parent but child?

What is the greatest gift we can give our children?

Perfectionism is a mask for what?

### **Chapter 5 - My Altar Has a Diesel Engine**

What "premodern" understanding might help us with vocation?

What did the abbot say to John Barnett?

What is the priesthood of all believers

Where is your altar?

### **Chapter 6 - Love Will Not Sustain Your Marriage**

What heresy against modern love does Chad speak?

What is the romantic idea of marriage?

How does Chad define a successful marriage?

Who alone remains the perfect spouse?

What is the churches Valentines Celebration?

## **Part Three - Our Churches**

### **Chapter 7 - Building Walls or Digging Moats?**

Why does Chad see political campaigning by the church as a muted hostility?

Have you heard of the Benedict Option? What is it?

What does Chad see as most impressive in the life of Daniel, et. al?

What is Jeremiah's advice to the exiles in Babylon?

What are the three things regular worship does?

What enables us to navigate our way through the religious fog?

### **Chapter 8 - There's No Sch Thng as a Prsnl Rltnshp with Jesus**

What is the irony of the *New York* magazine cover?

What was the first thing God said was "not good"?

How many first person singular pronouns are in the Lord's Prayer?

### **Chapter 9 - Church of the Saint Big Box**

What direction does the American needle point?

What does Chad posit as a reason we like big churches?

What should be the calibration of our compass?

What is a good measure of whether a church is successful?