

The King's Way – Study 7
Matthew 19:13-20:16
The upside-down Kingdom

1. Discuss together the ways in which Christianity is different to the prevailing views of those around us. See if you can come up with at least half a dozen.

Read Matthew 19:13-15.

2. Why do you think the disciples rebuked those who brought the little children to Jesus?

3. What do we learn about Jesus from this short but moving encounter?

Read Matthew 19:16-30.

4. In what ways does this man represent an ideal candidate for Jesus' team?

5. What is his problem?

6. Is there any hope for anyone to be saved and enter the Kingdom? Why/why not?

7. Place yourself in the shoes (sandals?) of the disciples as they witnessed these two encounters with Jesus (vv. 13-15 and vv. 16-30). In what ways might we also be in danger of misunderstanding the ways of the Kingdom?

Read Matthew 20:1-16.

8. Reflect together on the various ways in which this parable connects with Jesus' two previous encounters.

9. What particularly stands out to you about Jesus from today's section of Matthew's Gospel?

10. In what ways has today's section of Matthew's Gospel confirmed, clarified, or challenged your understanding of what it means to trust and follow Jesus?