

## THE UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM OF GOD

Matthew 6:1-18

Week Five

Big Idea:

Kingdom people strive to glorify God rather than themselves.

Kingdom people give generously to honor God, not to honor themselves.

Kingdom people pray for God to hear, not others.

Kingdom people hunger for God, rather than the approval of others.

## Small Group Questions:

- What stood out to you from the lecture?
- What were your key takeaways/questions from the assignment?
- As Jesus is teaching about the upside-down Kingdom of Heaven he encourages his audience to glorify God and not to do things to glorify themselves. Why does this seem to go against our human nature?
- What is the danger of doing things for the praises of others? What is the remedy of giving to the poor for the wrong reason?
- We see many examples of both private and public prayer throughout the Bible. Jesus says our Father already knows what we need before we ask him. How might this influence your prayers, both private and public?
- Fasting is a less common spiritual practice. Do you have any experience fasting for spiritual reasons you feel comfortable sharing? After today's teaching do you feel encouraged to try fasting in the near future?
- Explain how we reconcile Jesus' teachings that says, "let your light shine before others so they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven," and, "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people to be seen by them..."  
Matthew 5:16 & 6:1

## Preparing for next week:

Read Matthew 6:9-13 several times this week.

As you read, consider these questions:

- Anything confusing or surprising to you about this passage?
- Jesus is teaching about the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven--and it's an upside-down Kingdom. In what ways is this week's reading at odds with what his listeners might have expected? How is it counter-cultural?