

# The Ministry of Jesus

## Intro

- We're not simply called to *behold* Jesus, we're called *imitate* what we've seen.

## Kingdom confusion

Jer 30.8-9 “And it shall come to pass in that day, declares the Lord of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off your neck, and I will burst your bonds, and foreigners shall no more make a servant of him. But they shall serve the Lord their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.”

- “We like the all the healings and all, but you lack the political connections to shake Rome off of us.”
- To this mindset Jesus comes with his message of the Kingdom.

## The Servant-King and his followers

Mt 5.3-12

- Jesus' kingdom ethic stands in contrast to Jewish and Roman expectations.

Jn 13.3-8

- Peter had no category for this – Messiah's don't wash their disciple's feet.

Vs. 12 ... I've done this to give you an example of what *you* should be doing.

- Jesus was “teaching” them about humility, servanthood, and mutual sanctification.

## Ethics of an upside down kingdom

### Ethic 1: Greatness is measured by servanthood

Matt 20.25-28

- The title Son of Man draws its roots out of Daniel 7 – it is a description of Christ's pre-existence as God before the incarnation.
- The kingdom was to be a kingdom of servants outdoing one another in good works.

**“There is something unexpected and incongruous in the fact that he, of all men, should serve.... A similar awareness of the incongruousness of his low earthly condition is reflected in Matthew 8.20: ‘Foxes have holes and birds ... have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’ Again, what is remarkable is that he, of all people, should be homeless:**

*But thy couch was the sod,  
O Thou Son of God  
In the deserts of Galilee.”*

-Donald MacLeod. The Person of Christ. p.60

- One by one almost every leader in the NT is self-identified or identified by others as a servant.

### Ethic 2: Life-giving: at all times, to all people, everywhere

“I have come that you may have life.” –Jesus

“I am ready to spend and be spent for your souls.” –Paul

***What about our interactions? Are they life-giving?***

### **Ethic 3: Personal freedom comes through service to others**

Gal 5.13-14 “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

**“Service means doing things out of love that are costly to ourselves but aim to bring temporal and eternal benefit to others.”**

–John Piper, *What Jesus Demands from the World*, p.135

- One of the greatest cures to every form of sin is tucked into this little kingdom secret called serving and caring for the needs of others.

**“Meeting needs is the way of Jesus. And those following Jesus can trace their progress toward His likeness by tracking their growth in their concern for the spiritual and temporal needs of others.**

–Donald Whitney, *Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health*, p.70

### **Ethic 4: The happiest people are the ones who give the most**

- Servants wake up thinking of whom they might bless, encourage, serve, strengthen.

(2 Cor 1.24) Working for your joy; brings us joy (1 Thess 2.20)

- Lifestyle servants have tasted one of the greatest joys in this world – the taste of the truth that it is in fact more “blessed to give than to receive.”

#### **➤ Setting our preference palette**

Phil 2.3-4 “In humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

- The practice of serving others frees us from the subtle tyranny of selfishness and self-centered calendar-guarding.

## **Ethic 5: The greatest servant in this kingdom is the King Himself**

- We can't out give God.

Luke 12.37

- Heaven not an eternity of singing in order to try to pay back Jesus for what done.
- Heaven is place where we will be satisfied by the riches of the grace of God for all eternity.

Eph 2.4-7

- All of our "beholdings" of Jesus ultimately bring us back to the gospel and leave us right where Paul leaves us in Ephesians 2: poised and eager to make our boast in Christ alone.