

Paradox 6: We live by Dying

Matthew 25:14-30

Bill Warrick October 30, 2011

1. The Bible gives several requirements that are needed in order to enter the Kingdom of God. Read the following passages and note the requirements. John 3:3; Acts 14:21-22; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54. **We must be born again, we must go through many hardships, we must be changed from flesh and blood to spirit.** What do these teachings have in common and what do they literally mean for us? How do these passages tie into the parables in the chapter this week of the mustard seed and the bakers yeast? **Both things have to die in order to have an impact in the world.**
2. Read Matthew 16:21-28. Why did Jesus rebuke Peter for offering to protect Him? **Peter was trying to protect Jesus from death when Jesus was headed to Jerusalem to die.** What does Jesus mean when he says, “whoever wishes to save his life, will lose it?”
3. Read Romans 6:1-14. How does the ceremony of Baptism fit with this week’s paradox? **We are literally laying down our life in order to experience the resurrection of Christ. Buried with him in death...raised to newness of life.**
4. (Depending on the maturity of your group, you may want to read Romans 7:14-21. If your group is familiar with this common passage, then just ask someone, what is the tone of Romans 7 before we get to Romans 8?) Read Romans 8:1-14. How do we begin to die to our flesh? **“Set your mind on the things above, note the repeated phrase in verse 5-7.** How do you practically set your mind on the spirit? Why must we die to ourselves in order to live the Christian life? **It is only through dying that we can experience the life of Christ within us. (verse 11)**
5. As a group, read aloud page 101, beginning with the section *Advancing from the Inside Out*, and the first paragraph of *Transforming the Individual*. In your own words, how does God’s Kingdom advance in the world and what is to be our first priority in Kingdom Advancement? **Open Answer. The Kingdom must first come in our life, then it can grow into the lives of our family, community and world. Change always begins within me; from the inside out.** How does Nancy Hathaway’s story from Sunday morning (Heart for Orphans) illustrate this type of Kingdom Advancement? **God spoke into her heart and called her to adopt, then God used her new family to begin to influence others in Ukraine. From one person’s obedience has grown an institutional ministry that God is using to change people’s lives.**
6. Bill said, “Human nature blocks out what we don’t want to hear.” Can you think of an example from your life recently where this was true of you or someone to whom you were speaking?
7. How is the Kingdom growing in you? How is your life impacting the Kingdom coming in your family? How is your family and our church family bringing about the Kingdom in the community and broader world? **Open Answer.**
- 8.

Pray together. Encourage group members to prepare session 8 *The Unshakable Kingdom* for next week.

