



# FLIPPED:

## JESUS TURNS CONVENTIONAL WISDOM UPSIDE DOWN

**Matthew 19:30–20:16**

**Week of April 23, 2023**

**Start at 9:45–9:55**

**Belong:** *Use 5–10 minutes as an opportunity to get to know one another. The questions below are written for people to open-up and to know the group members.*

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

Choose two of the questions below:

- Ask about highs or lows that have happened since the last time you met.
- Or, Give a fun fact about yourself.
- Or, Tell about a time you tried out for, auditioned for, applied for, OR ran for something and got it.

**How has God revealed Himself to you this week?**

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**9:55–10:05**

**Believe:** *Use 5–10 minutes to read this week's assigned Scriptures then highlight each verse that helps you to understand the passage better. Include the book, chapter and verse(s).*

Over the next several weeks, we will be spending time looking at the paradoxes of Jesus. A paradox is defined as: statements that on the surface run against conventional wisdom but then reveal a deeper truth. In these paradoxes, Jesus takes conventional wisdom and turns it on its head. For His church, these teachings help us to define the economy of the Kingdom of God as well as the essence of the ministry of Jesus. ***The challenge for us is not to look inward for understanding, but to look outward at Jesus, to see Him, to learn from Him, to come to Him, and then to emulate what He teaches to us.***

Have a group member read **Matthew 19:30–20:16** aloud – Paradox in Workers in the Vineyard

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**10:05–10:20**

**Build:** *Use about 15 minutes to engage the passage and wrestle with its meaning.*

The paradox in this parable is the ***first will be last, and last will be first.***

- How does this turn our "wisdom" upside down?
- What does this paradox teach us about the "economy" of God's Kingdom?

In this parable of the vineyard workers, who do you think the ***five groups of workers*** hired at different times represent?

In this parable of the vineyard workers, the landowner represents God. What is unusual about the landowner's hiring practices? His compensation?

What does the parable of the vineyard workers teach us about God's grace?

- In what ways, does God's grace seem unfair?
- How is God's grace different than the definition of "fair"?

**10:20–10:35/40**

**Become:** *Use about 15 minutes to apply what you have read. How can this help me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?*

Thinking about the church **today**, who would be the people in the first group?

- How does the spirit of the first group impact how they viewed the other groups?
- Looking at things from their standpoint, how might we empathize with the workers in the first group?

Thinking about the church **today**, who would be the people in the later groups?

- In what ways are the later groups made to feel excluded or unwelcome in the church today?
- How might this impact their relationship with God?

Have someone read **Luke 17:10**. You've probably met people who say they are your friend but they won't do anything for you unless they are "paid". It may be a payment of money or a favor that they will negotiate in return.

- Do you think we relate to God this way?
- Do we serve God out of love OR do we serve God to get something?

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**10:35/ 10:40 – Class ends at 10:45**

**Begin:** *Use the last 5–10 minutes for prayer. It's important that we not only hear and discuss God's Word but respond to it. (James 1:22)*

**Do you see any of God's attributes in this week's passage that struck out to you?  
How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?**

**At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:**

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

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## **Additional Resources:**

**Blue Letter Bible: Matthew 20:** Check out the QR code to learn more.



**Precept Austin: Matthew 20:** Check out the QR code to learn more.

