

Parables About the Upside-Down Nature of Heaven's Kingdom (1)

How (and What) the

Parables of Jesus

Help Us See

Lesson 7

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt... (Luke 18:9)

Several of Jesus' parables diagnose our very human tendency to forget how dependent and unworthy we really are.

- **Dependence** and **unworthiness**: why are those so easy for most of us to overlook or forget?
- When we become blind to our dependence and unworthiness, what ugliness from within seems naturally to follow?

When living out of harmony with the fundamental realities of dependence and unworthiness, we need the "props" knocked out from under us. We need our conception of reality turned upside down. We need to be humbled and led to reconsider what we think we understand and enjoy.

Needed Reminders of Our Dependence & Unworthiness

Take the time to carefully read these "upside-down" parables (and their surrounding context). **What do they help us see?**

- The parable of two debtors (Luke 7:36-50) -
- The parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) -
- The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:9-14) -
- The parable of the unforgiving servant (Matt 18:15-35) -



For Next Week...

We'll continue our investigation of parables revolving around the **upside-down nature** of heaven's kingdom. Want a sneak peek? Take the time to thoughtfully read the three "lost" parables in [Luke 15](#). Once you have, look at them through the "kingdom of heaven" lens we've been spending so much time studying. How did Jesus' response to those who were grumbling—"This man receives sinners and eats with them"—encourage an "upside-down" way of looking at life (then and now)?