

Parables About
the Upside-Down
Nature of Heaven's
Kingdom (4)

How (and What) the

Parables of Jesus

Help Us See

Lesson 10

"Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (Luke 18:8)

As this study has developed, we've broken the parables of Jesus into three major themes generally found in three progressive "seasons" of his teaching:

- Parables about the **surprising arrival** of heaven's kingdom (a season of announcement)
- Parables about the **upside-down nature** of heaven's kingdom (a season of teaching)
- Parables about the **crisis of decision** caused by heaven's kingdom (a season of confrontation)

In this last lesson exploring the second "season" (the upside-down nature of heaven's kingdom), we need to take three more parables into account—parables that most find a little more challenging than those we've recently covered.

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

- The laborers in the vineyard ([Matthew 20:1-16](#)) -

- The dishonest manager ([Luke 16:1-13](#)) -

- The persistent widow ([Luke 18:1-8](#)) -



For Next Week...

We'll launch into the last "season" of Jesus' teaching—a period of confrontation full of parables leading hearers into the **crisis of decision**. Want to work ahead? Take the time to thoughtfully read [Luke 13:1-9](#). Once you have, look at it through the "kingdom of heaven" lens we've been spending so much time studying. How is Jesus leading his hearers (then and now) into what we could call a kingdom-confrontation where a decision must ultimately be made? What is that decision, and how will we *all* make it one way or another, even today?