

June 25 | Sunday
Upside Down: God's Economics
Read [Luke 18:8-14](#)



26 | Mon – Upside down prayer | Read [Luke 18:9-14](#)

What a contrast! Many people believed then, and maybe now, that God is quicker to hear the prayer of a holy person. Yet Jesus said there was more value in the honest prayer of the tax collector - considered a sinner - than the Pharisee's prayer (recitation) of all his own virtues. So when you pray, which of the two men do you most resemble? Or have you been both at different times in your life? It is good to remember that God has a heart for humble people.

27 | Tue – Upside down paycheck | Read [Matthew 20:1-10](#)

Do you think the landowner was unfair in the way he paid his workers? Remember, the first workers were paid the normal daily wage so was anyone underpaid? Or did some workers just receive unusual generosity? This landowner demonstrated the kind of generosity our God extends when he gives us what we don't deserve (grace) and doesn't give us what we do (mercy). When have you experienced God's unexpected grace or blessings?

28 | Wed – Why me? | Read [Matthew 20:11-16](#)

Many psychologists have observed how we frequently ask "Why me?" when something bad happens but rarely do we ask the same question "Why me?" when something *good* happens to us. What helps you counteract these tendencies toward ungrateful expectations and jealousy which we can all experience at various times?

29 | Thu – Tools for kingdom work | Read [Luke 16:1-10](#)

Was Jesus endorsing dishonest behavior with this story? NO! Remember this is a parable. The swindler won the master's grudging admiration because he went after his chosen values with all his energy. Jesus ends the story with a reminder that all we possess is not really ours. Our resources, financial and otherwise, are tools to bless others. Who are the 'others' in your life that you can impact for eternity by the way you live and share?

30 | Fri – What is most important? | Read [Matthew 6:19-21](#)

Here is a challenge for you: read Jesus' words and then do an audit of your calendar and your bank statement. Based on the time, energy and resources reflected there, who would you say you are serving? If you don't like the results of your audit, there is an antidote available in verse 33. Think about where you could shift your focus to live a more balanced life.

01 | Sat – It's not about the money | Read [Matthew 6:24-34](#) and [Acts 3:1-10](#)

Money is such a big part of our lives. It can be very stressful trying to make enough income to survive, let alone thrive. For some of us, driven by worry for the future, the pursuit of finances can become all consuming. Jesus offers a different point of view. Pointing us to nature, he declares that God's care for us is even greater than how he provides for the birds and the flowers. Peter and John got it right..."Silver and gold, I do not have but what I do have, I give you..." If you take inventory of what God has given you, instead of what you lack, life may look very different to you. Then you will be able to give to others what they need most.