

**28 August 2016 – 15 Pentecost (Proper 17).**

**Readings:** Prov. 25:6-7; Hebrews 13:1–8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7–14.



**Theme:** *Upside down kingdom* – Luke 14:10, 11, “But when you are invited, **take the lowest place**, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘**Friend, move up** to a better place.’ Then you will be honoured in the presence of all the other guests. For all those who exalt them-selves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” You are invited! How do you respond? Consider...

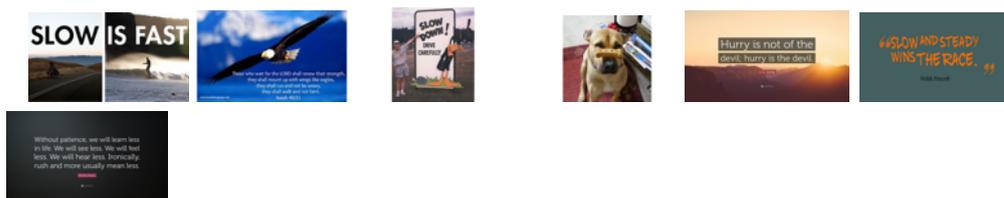


## I. DOWN IS UP.

**Luke 14:10**, “But when you are invited, take **the lowest place**.”

**Philippians 2:5-8**, “In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he **made himself nothing** by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he **humbled himself** by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”

**Illustrations:** Latvia, 2010, lunch with the Archbishop.



## II. SLOW IS FAST.

**Proverbs 19:2**, “Haste makes waste.”

Patience and perseverance. The devil is always in a hurry. Partly, because he knows his time is short. Patience and perseverance, are also fruit of the Spirit, which the devil does not have.

**Isaiah 40:31**, “Those who **wait** for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, **they shall walk** and not faint.”

We have to learn to wait before we can soar, walk before we can

run.

Eg. Moses. How long did he “wait” in the wilderness? 40 years! How much longer did he “wait” again in the wilderness? 40 more years!

**Illus.** Walking through the Red Sea. **Exodus 14:29**, “But the sons of Israel **walked** on dry land through the midst of the sea, and the waters *were like* a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.”

**Illus.** Sitting next to the Archbishop.



### III.LESS IS MORE.

**John 3:30**, “He must become greater; I must become less.”

**Pete Scazzero.** “Pastors and leaders agree with me every time I speak to them about slowing down for God... But few of them actually do anything about it’... ‘Oh, Pete,’ he said, ‘they can’t stop... If they stop, they’ll die.’” (*The Emotionally Healthy Leader*, p. 143).

This is the ultimate truth of the upside down kingdom. You don’t really start living until you die. The good news: **Death is life!**

**Galatians 2:20**, “**I have been crucified** with Christ and **I no longer live**, but **Christ lives in me**. The life **I now live** in the body, **I live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave himself for me.” **Romans 6:1-7**, “What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! **We are those who have died** to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore **buried with him through baptism into death** in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that **our old self was crucified** with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he

lives, he lives to God. In the same way, **count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**”

**CONCLUSION/REFLECTION:** Upside down people, turn the world upside down. **Acts 17:6.** “Cause it's the inside outside upside down kingdom. Where you lose to gain and you die to live.” - *Servant of all* - Misty Edwards. So may we become and do, in Jesus' name. 😊