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The Upside Down Kingdom

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From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Matthew 4:17 (NIV84)

Repent = _____ .

"With a new ruler comes a new set of rules, a new economy, new hope, new destiny, new values, new justice, new vision, new identity, new responsibilities, new privileges, new rewards, and a new day."

— Buddy Owens

Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them saying:

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.*

*Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

Matthew 5:1–10 (NIV84)

"Not what I have, but what I have not, is the first point of contact, between my soul and God."

— Charles Spurgeon

5 Distinctives of the Early Church

From Tim Keller

1. The early church was _____ and experienced a unity across ethnic boundaries that was startling.

2. The early church was a community of

_____ and _____ .

3. The early church was famous for its hospitality to

_____ .

4. It was a community committed to the _____ .

5. It was a _____ .

“Christianity radically asserted that your faith in Christ became your new, deepest identity, while at the same time not effacing or wiping out your race, class, and gender. Instead, your relationship to Christ demoted them to second place.”

— Tim Keller

There is power in a _____ church.

In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

2 Timothy 2:20–21 (NIV84)

Next Steps:

Read _____ this week.

Ask yourself, “Where does my life not currently

_____ ?”

