

# COLLECTIVE

June 12, 2022

## THE GREAT REVERSAL

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The Coming, Death and Resurrection of Jesus was **the Great Reversal**.

Unlike other religions, we do not achieve salvation by our own strength and righteousness, but through weakness of repentance. It means that we live, grow, and serve in this kingdom not by taking power, but by following Jesus and by giving up power in order to forgive, sacrifice, and serve.

This structure does not only challenges the dominant culture in which we live, but it reshapes our lives from the ground up.

We can see this theme of the Great Reversal all throughout the Bible. There is:

1. **Retributive Reversal**

The freedom and reward sin appears to offer eventually becomes slavery and curse. Sin has a boomerang effect, where those who betray will be betrayed, those who lie will be lied to, and those who live by the sword will die by the sword.

2. **Redemptive Reversal**

God saves through weakness, not through power, and strength. And if the faithful persevere in faith, even though they might seem to be cursed, they are actually in the midst of being blessed.

There is no message more contrary to the way the world understands life and subverts its values. The Great Reversal challenges the world's thought categories, but it is the most practical guide to real life. It is not just the way Christians are saved, but also the dynamic that opens us up to a rhythm of life, an ethic, and a way of living and looking at the world.

**Luke 6:20-26**

Jesus lays out the values of each in such a way as seen in this diagram: -

THE WORLD – GOOD THINGS	JESUS’S KINGDOM – HARD THINGS
Rich	Poor
Full	Hungry
Laugh	Weep
All speak well (popular)	Hated
Power	Weakness
Comfort	Deprivation
Success	Loss
Recognition	Exclusion

HARD THINGS	BEST THINGS
Weak	Kingdom of God
Hungry (Deprivation)	Filled (satisfaction)
Weeping (loss)	Laugh (Joy)
Hated (Exclusion)	Reward is great in heaven

The Great Reversal also means that we will find a joy that comes not only after sorrow but a joy that comes through sorrow.

**Psalm 126:5-6**

When we are in the midst of suffering, let us NOT just look at what is seen (*which are the problems*), but look in faith at the unseen (*which is the greatness and glory of Christ and what he has done for us*).