

A Christmas card with a split design. The top half features a lion's head in profile, facing right, with a green tint. The bottom half features a reindeer's head in profile, facing left, with a red tint. The two halves are separated by a horizontal white line. In the center, there is a black rectangular box containing the text 'UPSIDE' in white and 'DOWN' in black. Below this box is a red rectangular box containing the text 'THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.' in white. The background of the top half is a close-up of a pine branch with green needles. The background of the bottom half is a close-up of a pine branch with red needles.

UPSIDE

DOWN

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.

Matthew 6:22-24, 32-33

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be **full of light**. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be **full of darkness**. If then the **light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!**

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money...

For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well.

John 3:1-3

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. **He came to Jesus at night** and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

Last verse of Chapter 3:

John 3:36

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

Nicodemus and John's disciples are "full of darkness."
They can't see the kingdom of God.
They can't understand its nature.

If you can't see the kingdom,
you can't enter it,
and you can't enjoy it.

Instead of a *joy*,
it will be confusing, frustrating, and threatening.

So then how do we **SEE** the kingdom?
IS it see-able?

Jesus: *No.* You need a spiritual
rebirth you can't create.

You can't make the being "born again" happen.
You can only take Jesus at his word.

**Jesus is telling the truth,
and you need to *believe him*
to *see him*.**

Jesus is telling the truth and you need to believe him.

- He's the only one that can tell this truth
- No one believes him
- You need to believe him
- This is how you come to see the kingdom
- Both understanding and experiencing

3 confronting and freeing truths
about seeing the kingdom in Jesus

1. If you don't believe Jesus' testimony,
the kingdom looks like a threat,
and motivates jealousy.

2. Only a steward can be diminished with joy.

3. Believing in Jesus means believing Jesus.
You can't believe in the Word of God without believing his words.