

5/8/2018 – UPSIDE-DOWN LIFE

by Barbara Linn

I'm a pastor's wife, so my mission tonight was to speak to the pastors' wives about the honor and significance of their place on the team. Yet, I was having a lot of trouble coming up with something to say. So, I was... what's another word for "desperately?" ...eagerly seeking wisdom in some newsletters written by Elisabeth Elliot Gren, and found a column titled "Splendor in the Ordinary¹" where she quotes from a book written by her brother Thomas Howard. This article gave me an idea, and the idea is this – Jesus lived His life upside-down. Let's reflect on some of the aspects of Jesus' life – The Life lived upside-down.

The Life started with conception in the womb of an unmarried virgin, someone held in lowest esteem. The Life emerged in a stable, the lowest of shelters. The Life worked with fishermen and ate with tax collectors, the lowest of society. The Life presented itself to Jerusalem on the foal of donkey, the lowest of transportation. The Life donned a towel and washed feet, the lowest of tasks. And finally, The Life was put to death on a cross between two criminals, the lowest of executions.

It was all upside-down.

Yet upside-down became rightside-up! Lowest became highest; humility became glory; submission became sovereignty; defeat became victory; death became everlasting life; servant became king!

Mark 9:33 says, "They came to Capernaum; and when He was in the house, He began to question them, "What were you discussing on the way?" But they kept silent, for on the way they had discussed with one another which of them was the greatest. Sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." It's all upside-down.

In your home, in your workplace, in your daily routines, you are playing out the drama of following your upside-down King. This drama is full of outrageous, upside-down opportunities. Outrageous opportunities like submission: the upside-down way to freedom; self-denial: the upside-down way to self-discovery; giving: the upside-down way to receiving; and service: the upside-down way to exaltation.

St. Francis DeSales said: "The King of Glory rewards His servants not according to the dignity of their office, but according to the love and humility with which they carry it out." Let's use all of our absurd, outrageous opportunities as pastors' wives to live our lives upside-down.

¹Elisabeth Elliot Gren Newsletter – Nov/Dec 1987.