

Sunday, June 27, 2021
"Stories of Kingdom Grace"
Summary of Glory Veiled and Unveiled
Isaiah 6:1-4; 2 Peter 1:19
Wayne Shelton

Robert Godfrey writes, 'Many American churches are in a mess. Theologically they are indifferent, confused, or dangerously wrong. Liturgically they are the captives of superficial fads. Morally they live lives indistinguishable from the world.' What has gone wrong? Godfrey notes that 'at the heart of the mess is a simple phenomenon: the churches seem to have lost a love for and confidence in the Word of God.' One of the ways to restore a love for and confidence in the Word of God are the parables. We need the parables of Jesus if we are to follow him in the way of God's kingdom since it is all too easy to lose our way. The parables, in both what they say and how they say it, are a gift of the Holy Spirit that keep us engaged and involved with what God is doing in the church for the sake of the world. And our Lord knows, despite all our good intentions, just how fearful, discouraged, defensive, misunderstanding, stubborn and proud we can be. And so he speaks to us in a way that is gracious and merciful, while, at the same time, in a way that can be even shocking and outrageous. Someone has said the best way for us to understand the parables, to truly see what Jesus is saying, is to 'stand on our heads.' This is actually a pretty good piece of interpretive wisdom, since in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has indeed turned the world upside down.

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