



## Going Deeper Redemptive Reversals and the Glory of the Cross 1 Corinthians 1:18-32

Why is IRONY such an important part of the Christian life?

### **IRONY in Biblical Narrative**

1. Joseph (pit, prison, promotion, exaltation) – Looks like “Sentence of death” but it becomes a catalyst to salvation
2. Tamar and Nathan both use IRONY to confront sin/evil (Judah and David)
3. Ironic judgement
4. Mordecai was righteous, Haman hated him!

### ***Esther 6:7-9***

*For the man whom the king desires to honor, let them bring a royal robe which the king has worn, and the horse on which the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal crown has been placed; and let the robe and the horse be handed over to one of the king's noble princes and let them array the man whom the king desires to honor and lead him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him, “Thus it shall be done to the man whom the king desires to honor.*

### ***Psalm 7:6-12***

*Arise, O LORD, in your anger; lift yourself up against the fury of my enemies; awake for me; you have appointed a judgment. Let the assembly of the people be gathered about you; over it return on high.*

*The LORD judges the peoples; judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness and according to the integrity that is in me. Oh, let the evil of the wicked come to an end, and may you establish the righteous – you who test the minds and hearts, O righteous God! My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart. God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.*

*If a man does not repent. God will whet his sword; he has bent and readied his bow;*

### **IRONY in Jesus' Teaching**

**Matthew 19:30** – The first shall be last, the last shall be first

**Matthew 10: 37-39** – Find life, lose it... lose your life for my sake, find it

Beatitudes – Blessed are the poor, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

### **IRONY in Jesus' Crucifixion**

1. Jesus: King of the Jews (**John 19:19-22**)
2. Robe and Crown (**Matthew 27:27-31**)
3. "his blood be on us and on our children" (**Matthew 27:25**)
4. **John 19** – HAIL THE KING

### **IRONY in 1 Corinthians 1:18-32**

1. How does God overcome evil at the CROSS?

"God did not just overcome evil at the cross. He made evil serve the overcoming of evil. He made evil commit suicide in doing its worst evil.

- John Piper

2. Who understand, who doesn't?
3. How should this shape the culture and attitude of believers?
4. How can the Church better display "Christ crucified" in our doctrine?

### **IRONY of our Ministry**

#### **2 Corinthians 1:3-10**

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort which which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.*

*Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.*

*For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.*

We minister out of our brokenness, not our strength. How can you minister from your pain, your hurt, your weakness?