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Topsy-Turvy World

Have you noticed that lots of products in supermarkets are being turned upside down: they now stand on their lids. Look at old favourites such as ketchup, mayonnaise and honey. For years they have been sold in conventional bottles with the lid at the top. Then some clever marketer realised that they would actually be better the other way up. The labels are turned upside down, and we can't believe no one thought of it before! Upside down turns out to be the right way up.

Two thousand years ago, the Son of God came to earth and proceeded to turn the world upside down. For religious leaders, for people respected in their communities, for the rich, for people with influence, Jesus' words came as a shock: he seemed to be turning accepted values upside down. He tells the rich that they are the world's poor, he says that it is better to be gentle and lowly than powerful and a celebrity, that it is better to turn the other cheek than retaliate, that salvation cannot be earned through good works. Many of us would say we also live in an upside-down world.

We have more gadgets to help us save time but are busier than ever, we have fantastic means of communication but don't know our neighbours, we are wealthy by most countries' standards but our children rate amongst the unhappiest in the world. Jesus stirred things up and made people feel uncomfortable. He showed what was important in life and what was not. Jesus came to seek out those that confessed they had messed up their lives and were looking for a fresh start. Jesus says, "I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me calling and open the door, I will come right in and sit down to supper with you." Never have we heard so many confusing messages about life, yet the message of Jesus is unchanging and simple – the invitation is there for all who truly seek. It's too simple for words!