

## Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

### "The Ever-Expanding Kingdom"

Today's Question: What does the future of the Church look like?

**Luke 13:18-30** (NKJV); The Parable of the Mustard Seed

<sup>18</sup> Then He said, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? <sup>19</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches."

The Parable of the Leaven

<sup>20</sup> And again He said, "To what shall I liken the kingdom of God? <sup>21</sup> It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

The Narrow Way

<sup>22</sup> And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.

<sup>23</sup> Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?"

And He said to them, <sup>24</sup> "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup> When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' <sup>26</sup> then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' <sup>27</sup> But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' <sup>28</sup> There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. <sup>29</sup> They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup> And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last."

### The Ever-Expanding Kingdom:

#### Encouraging Truths about the Kingdom of God

1. **There are only two \_\_\_\_\_ on this earth: The Kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ and the Kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_** (v. 18).
  - The Kingdom of God is going to grow because healthy things truly grow in time. The Kingdom of God is going to emerge victorious.

- The Kingdom of Satan will come on strong and loom large, but in the end, it will be defeated by the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Angels, and the Redeemed Saints.
2. **God's Kingdom is \_\_\_\_\_ like a \_\_\_\_\_ seed** (v. 18-19).
- It is \_\_\_\_\_ in its beginning.
  - It must be \_\_\_\_\_ in order to grow.
  - It is \_\_\_\_\_ in its growth once it takes root.
  - It eventually becomes \_\_\_\_\_ and impressive.
  - It provides \_\_\_\_\_ for many who take refuge within its reach.
3. **God's Kingdom is \_\_\_\_\_ like \_\_\_\_\_** (v. 20-21).
- Yeast is \_\_\_\_\_ in the beginning.
  - Yeast forever \_\_\_\_\_ whatever it invades from within.
4. **Since there are only two kingdoms, make sure you are in the \_\_\_\_\_** (v. 22-23).
- Most Jews believed that they would be in the Kingdom of God.
  - Jesus taught the opposite—few people are saved. You are not saved by your first birth (your nationality), but by your second birth (your spiritual birth).

**Application:** Why are only a few people saved? 7 reasons why few people "find" the way to eternal life:

- 1) Too many people believe that you can earn your way to heaven.
- 2) Too many people believe that good people make it to heaven because they are good.
- 3) Too many people believe that a loving God would not send anyone to hell.
- 4) Too many people are too busy to even think about eternity.
- 5) Too many people are living only for this present world with little thought for eternity.
- 6) Too many people live as though they are going to live forever.
- 7) Too many people are following the crowds instead of following the Christ.

5. **Christianity is and always has been the \_\_\_\_\_ way** (v. 24).
  - The narrow way implies that it goes against popular opinion.
  - The narrow way implies that most of the people in the world will disagree with it.
  - The narrow way implies that some will reject this way because the pathway appears too difficult to walk.
6. **The door of \_\_\_\_\_ is only open for a \_\_\_\_\_ time** (v. 25).
  - The door of salvation is wide open now in this age of grace.
  - One day God will shut the door of salvation and it will be too late to be saved.
7. **\_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus is not the same thing as a \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus** (v. 25-27).
  - Notice that the people will claim that they personally know Jesus.
  - The people thought they were followers of Jesus, but the truth was that they were followers of the Kingdom of this world (you workers of iniquity).
8. **You have a V.I.P. \_\_\_\_\_ to the Kingdom of God that has an \_\_\_\_\_ date** (v. 28).
  - Do you want to hear the best news of the century? Jesus is inviting you and me to be with Him forever in His Kingdom.
  - If you say "Yes" to Jesus in this lifetime, you will live forever with Him in His Kingdom.
  - If you say "No" or you delay your decision or never truly decide, you will not be part of Jesus' Kingdom.
9. **Many will be \_\_\_\_\_ when they stand before God in \_\_\_\_\_** (v. 29-30).
  - Those who were considered last will suddenly surprise many when they are the first in line in the eternal Kingdom of God.
  - Make sure that you have truly accepted Christ alone for your eternal salvation.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus is the King of His Kingdom and He invites you to the glorious invitation to become part of His royal family!

Today's Big Idea (A short summary): The hope of the world is the Christ-centered local church that presents Jesus Christ as the only Hope for true life.

**Action Steps:**

1. Do a **personal evaluation**—are you truly a member of the family of God?
2. Sign up for a **serve team**—since the Christ-centered local church is the hope of the world—I am all in!
3. **Give generously**—Where your treasure goes, there your heart follows. Are you giving of your time, talent, and resources to Christ and His Kingdom?

**Preview for Next Sunday:** Pour Out Your Jar. I Kings 4:1-7.



*Challenge: Invite 3 people to this event and try to bring a least one of them with you on Sunday!*