

Lesson 47

Luke 13:18-30

Introduction

We think about the greatness of nations in terms of land mass, area, resources, or military prowess. Jesus thinks about the greatness of His Kingdom in terms of people. In these passages Jesus describes the extent of His Kingdom and the requirements for entry into that Kingdom.

Scripture

Luke 13:18-30 Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? 19 It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches."

20 Again he asked, "What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? 21 It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

22 Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. 23 Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?"

He said to them, 24 "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. 25 Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.'

"But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'

26 "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'

27 "But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'

28 "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. 29 People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. 30 Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last."

Closer Look

1. Why does Jesus choose to use the mustard seed as an illustration about the size of God's future Kingdom?
2. How does the parable of the yeast in the flour illustrate the Kingdom of God in terms of presence and growth?
3. When asked about how many people are going to be saved Jesus answers in an unusual way; why didn't He simply say yes or no? What was He trying to accomplish through His answer?
4. What is Jesus telling us about entering the Kingdom by representing a potential conversation of those denied in verses 25-27?

5. In the last three verses (v. 28-30) Jesus points out that many will be saved but it may not be who we thought would be saved. Why does Jesus say "...last who will be first, and first who will be last."?

6. How do people misunderstand the gospel and seek to enter the kingdom of God? What are ways which do not work?

Scripture for the day:

Monday – James 2:5

Tuesday – Matthew 19:28-30

Wednesday – Colossians 4:5-6

Thursday – Ephesians 5:15-20

Friday – 1 Corinthians 15:3-8