# **THE GOSPEL OF LUKE** A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

## Surprised By The Kingdom Luke 13: 18-30

As Jesus moves closer toward his goal in Jerusalem, he increases both the focus and intensity of his teaching regarding the Kingdom. It is not coming as the Jewish people expected it: rushing in, overthrowing the Roman rulers, and restoring the glory days of Solomon. As he confronts the cultural failures and hardness of heart time and again, he seeks to bring an understanding of the true nature of the Kingdom. The parables in our study today are classic examples.

### I. Mustard Seed and Leaven

- A. Both of these parables contain the same message and have the same element of surprise
- B. Jesus knows that a mustard seed produces a shrub, but in his parable it becomes a great tree which provides rest for the birds
- C. Typically, only enough bread for the day was prepared for the family, but this woman leavens 50 pounds of flour!
- D. Rather than crashing in upon Rome, the advancing Kingdom will be like a tiny seed or a little leaven that gradually exerts its influence until it becomes something totally unexpected and amazing

### II. An Interesting Question

- A. The question: are there just a few who are being saved?
- B. The answer:
  - 1. The criteria—enter through the narrow door
  - 2. The urgency—one day the master will close the door
  - 3. The panic—locked out of the Kingdom
  - 4. The relationship—knowing about him does not equal knowing him
  - 5. The tragedy—many who thought for sure they would be in will find themselves on the outside while those they least expected will dine in the Kingdom of God

### III. An Unexpected Answer

The person who asked the question wanted to know how many were going to be saved. The response that Jesus gave was, "Make certain you are one of them."

So He was saying, "What is the kingdom of God like, and to what shall I compare it? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and threw into his own garden; and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches." And again He said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened." And He was passing through from one city and village to another, teaching, and proceeding on His way to Jerusalem. And someone said to Him, "Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?" And He said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, 'Lord, open up to us!' then He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.' Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets';

- 1. What does it mean for the Kingdom to be a process while yielding surprising results?
- 2. If salvation is by grace through faith why does Jesus say *strive* to enter through the narrow door?
- 3. What made them surprised when they were locked on the outside; what were their assumptions?
- 4. To whom is this response particularly addressed? And who are those from the east, west, north and south?
- 5. In this context (dining in the Kingdom of God) explain the statement, "some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last."
- 6. Personal questions: do you know about Jesus, or do you know Jesus? Have you entered through the narrow gate? How do you know?

NOTES

and He will say, 'I tell vou, I do not know where you are from; depart from Me, all you evildoers.' In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and and the Jacob all prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out. And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last." Luke 13: 18-30 NASB

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in vour name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, vou evildoers!'

Matthew 7: 21-23 NIV

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

John 17: 3 NIV



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