

# 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';

