



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

A Kingdom Story!

Luke 13:18-35

Message #43 of 50 – S825

Sermon given on January 6, 2019



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

A Kingdom Story!

Luke 13:18-35

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 13**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- Jesus is going to teach about the kingdom of God in our text for the day
- Why is this important to us?
- Because the kingdom of God is not obvious in this world, but that doesn't mean it cannot be seen **Luke 17:20-21**

Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

- We need to understand the kingdom of God so that the reality of God's kingdom can be seen in our lives
- God is writing a story in your life – a story about Jesus and His kingdom
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **A Kingdom Story!**
- Jesus begins with a couple of parables
- **Luke 13:18-19**
- All parables are meant to teach one simple spiritual truth
- We have to be careful to avoid trying to explain every detail of parables
- This parable could relate to how the church has grown
- But more likely, it is relating to how the kingdom of God grows within the heart of a believer
- In my own life, I have sensed the kingdom get larger and larger and there is more room in my heart for other people
- The next parable is similar
- **Luke 13:20-21**

- Leaven = yeast – often used in the Bible as a symbol for evil or sin
- Not here – used in a positive way
- Leaven/yeast causes a reaction within flour that causes it to rise
- Just a little bit can change a whole lump of dough
- If the kingdom of God is within you – it is going to change you – all of you
- It works from the inside out – changing who you are on the inside - which changes how you are on the outside
- In fact, if you are not changing – is the kingdom in you? Are you saved?
- People have always had wrong ideas about what it means to be in God’s kingdom
- In Jesus’ time, the Jews thought that almost all Jews would be ushered into God’s kingdom
- Only the very worst would be disqualified
- But then Jesus seemed to teach that this wasn’t true
- Like calling the Pharisees hypocrites
- Led someone to ask Jesus about it
- **Luke 13:22-24**
- There are some who believe getting to heaven is easy
- In fact, they might tell you that just wanting to go there is enough to get you there – God has an open-border policy – lets everyone in
- They might tell you that all roads lead to heaven
- The context of what Jesus says right here is a question from a man who believes that heaven exists and has some desire to go there
- Jesus makes it clear here that just ‘seeking’ to get into heaven isn’t going to get you there
- When Jesus told His disciples that it was hard for rich people to get into heaven – disciples were puzzled – ‘Who then can be saved?’
- Jesus said, ‘With men, it is impossible’ – Turn to **Matthew 7**
- The apostle Paul told us to examine ourselves **2 Corinthians 13:5**
Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.
- ‘disqualified’ – from heaven! Make sure Christ is in you **John 14:6**

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

- Jesus is the ‘door of the sheep’ according to John 10:7
- There are two ways you can be going with this life
- **Matthew 7:13-14**
- There are millions of people in this world who think they are headed to heaven who are tragically mistaken because they are trying to get there some way other than through Christ
- Turn back to **Luke 13**
- This is a serious matter because Jesus says there is a time limit on entering into heaven
- **Luke 13:25-28**
- Jesus is referring to Himself as the Master of the house
- God the Father has given the kingdom to His Son Jesus Christ
- A day will come when the door to heaven is shut and locked
- The Bible teaches clearly that you have to choose in this life to enter by the narrow gate
- If you leave this life without choosing Christ – it will be too late to change your mind
- And there won’t be anything you can say to change God’s mind
- ‘ate and drank in your presence’ and heard Him teach
- Matthew’s gospel includes other things people will say **Matthew 7:21-23**

Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

- Jesus makes it clear – it is not about what you do with Jesus or what you do for Him or in His name
- Getting to heaven is about being in a relationship with Jesus
- Nothing else matters until that is true
- Once in a relationship, then all those things matter
- How tragic would it be to hear Jesus say, ‘I **never** knew you!’
- **Luke 13:28-30**
- These are Jews who presumed to be headed for heaven
- Believed they were guaranteed a spot because of their heritage

- Jesus says not only will they not be welcome – they will be ‘thrust out’
 - ‘east, west, north, and south’ suggests people from outside of Israel – the Gentiles – non-Jews, like most of us
 - Saying to them, the people you least expect to be in heaven will be there
 - That is a warning to us – don’t despise anyone – you might see them in heaven
 - Jesus is headed toward Jerusalem and His appointment on the cross
 - He gets news that He could be in danger
 - **Luke 13:31**
 - It looks like they are trying to dissuade Jesus from going to Jerusalem
 - Jesus’ response is fascinating
 - **Luke 13:32-33**
 - Nothing was going to keep Jesus from doing what He was here to do
 - This reminds us – God’s will is absolute
 - Jesus knew what God had planned for Him – He knew that Herod had no power to change God’s plan – no one does
 - Jesus walked boldly forward – fearlessly doing what He knew was God’s will
 - If you are still here – it is because God is not done with you
 - And as long as you are here – God has a purpose for you to be here – and you are invincible until that purpose is accomplished
 - Walk boldly and fearlessly in God’s will
 - Notice the phrase, ‘today, tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected’
 - This is a subtle reference to His death, burial, and resurrected
 - ‘perfected’ = finished, completed – Jesus used a similar word from the cross **John 19:30**
- So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.**
- As Jesus thinks of Jerusalem, He laments the future He sees for this beloved city
 - **Luke 13:34-35**
 - Turn to **Luke 19**

- God’s plan was to use the Jews to bring the whole world into a relationship with Himself
- They regularly rebelled against God’s will and suffered the consequences of their rebellion
- But God never stopped loving them and desiring them to return to Him
- Jesus is expressing God’s heart – also showing them their future
- **Luke 19:41-44**
- In 68AD the Romans laid siege to Jerusalem and in 70AD they fulfilled this prophecy and destroyed Jerusalem and the temple
- Turn back to **Luke 13**
- Your house is left to you desolate – for almost 2,000 years – no temple
- But notice the word ‘until’ in verse 35
- God is not finished with the Jews – they will return to God **Romans 11:26-27**

And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”

- I am thankful that God will keep His promise to Israel, even though she has been unfaithful for the last 2,000 years
- Because that means He will keep His promises to me and to you
- He promised to bring us into His eternal kingdom – He will
- Until then – let that kingdom grow in your heart until it fills all of you – so that it has room for more of the people God loves
- Until Jesus comes to get you – let God’s kingdom change you from the inside out like yeast in a lump of dough
- Until Jesus is done with you on this earth – walk boldly and fearlessly doing God’s will so that the rest of the world can see the kingdom
- God is writing a story in your life – it is the story of the kingdom of God
- It is a story of love, grace, hope, peace, forgiveness, and power
- Let God write His story in your life
- **Pray!**