

Introduction (Luke 13:18-35)

The company that I manage, Murchison Drilling Schools, originally had one course, the Operational Drilling Technology and Advanced Well Control course. It is a ten-day course for drilling supervisors. The objective of the course is to teach drilling supervisors how to properly supervise drilling operations. There are eighteen different workshops in the course.

When people ask about the coming to the course, we recommend to them that they have a year of operational experience before coming. It is a Supervisory level course and assumes that you have a basic understanding of drilling operations. When companies send new engineers that are fresh out of college, but have no experience, their young engineers have a difficult time. When people who are not in the oil and gas industry come to the class because they want to work in our industry, they have a difficult time. Young engineers, and non-drilling personnel are not familiar with the terminology, concepts, or equipment. Therefore, they struggle in the class.

Six years ago, we broke our ten-day class into three five-day classes. The first class is called the Practical Drilling Technology class. We added a lot of introductory material to help people learn the concepts and give a basic understanding of some of the operational practices. This class and the sequel to it have become very popular.

When Jesus came to earth, most people were not very familiar with the concepts of the Kingdom of God. To make things worse, some had misconceptions about the Kingdom of God and what the Messiah had come to do. They thought that He was coming to establish an earthly kingdom and set them free from Roman rule. Jesus came to establish the Kingdom of God.

Jesus did not add another course to His curriculum to help teach these concepts. He simply taught in parables and stories to give people a basic understanding of the kingdom. In our text today, Jesus teaches us about the nature of the kingdom, the entrance into the kingdom, and the gospel of the kingdom. Our text today is Luke 13:18-35. Let's read our text as we get started this morning.

What is the Kingdom of God like?

1. The Nature of the Kingdom
2. The Entrance Into the Kingdom
3. The Gospel of the Kingdom

(Luke 13:18-21) "So He was saying, "What is the kingdom of God like, and to what shall I compare it? {19} 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? {21} It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened."

(Luke 13:22-30) "And He was passing through from one city and village to another, teaching, and proceeding on His way to Jerusalem. {23} And someone said to Him, "Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?" And He said to them, {24} "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. {25} 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.' {26}

Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets'; {27} and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.' {28} In that place 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, but yourselves being thrown out. {29} And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God. {30} And behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last."

(Luke 13:31-35) "Just at that time some Pharisees approached, saying to Him, "Go away, leave here, for Herod wants to kill You." {32} And He said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My goal.' {33} "Nevertheless I must journey on today and tomorrow and the next day; for it cannot be that a prophet would perish outside of Jerusalem. {34} O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it! {35} Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you, you will not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"

1. The Nature of the Kingdom

Jesus is trying to give understanding about the kingdom of God. He has said that we are to seek first the kingdom of heaven. He has said not to lay up treasures here on earth, but to store up treasures in heaven. What is the kingdom of God? What is it like? What can we compare it to? How can we grasp what He is telling us. Jesus begins by giving us two parables or pictures of natural things that we do understand in order to help us understand spiritual things that we do not understand. In Mark 4:31-34, we find that Jesus spoke many such parables in order to help them comprehend this kingdom concept. He also explained everything privately to His own disciples. Jesus probably had around a hundred disciples at this time. He sent out His twelve. He also sent out another seventy, which would make eighty-two. There must have been some other disciples, so there were probably about a hundred people that He was privately explaining the parables to.

(Mark 4:33-34) "With many such parables He was speaking the word to them, so far as they were able to hear it; {34} and He did not speak to them without a parable; but He was explaining everything privately to His own disciples."

A. The Example of the Mustard Seed

The first example is of the mustard seed. He says the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. I do not think He was talking about the DNA of a mustard seed. He is not talking about the size, color, or hardness of the seed. **Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed because of the growth of the mustard seed.**

(Luke 13:18-19) "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."

In Matthew's account, we find that the mustard seed is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree. Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed because it starts small and grows large. This smallest of seeds grew so large that the birds of the air came and built their nests in its branches. The kingdom of God is supposed to grow and increase.

(Matt 13:31-32) "He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; {32} and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES."

Not only does the mustard seed grow and increase, it's growth is evident to those around. The mustard tree supported life. The birds of the tree came and built nests in its branches. It had impact on the life around the tree. In the same way, when the kingdom of God increases in our lives and in the life of our community, lives will be touched. The captives will be set free. Those in the grips of drugs, alcohol, and other addictions will be set free. People with sicknesses and diseases will be healed. Marriages will be reconciled and healed. **When the kingdom of God increases, the community will also be positively impacted.**

What is it in the kingdom that is supposed to grow and increase? In Luke 17, Jesus used the illustration of the mustard seed again. The disciples had asked Him to increase their faith. He responded to them by saying if they had faith like a mustard seed, they would say to the mulberry tree, 'be uprooted and be planted in the sea' and it would obey them. Faith is a big part of the kingdom of God, and **our faith is intended to grow and increase.**

(Luke 17:5-6) "The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" {6} And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you."

Having played professional sports for many years, we did a lot of exercise. There were two main areas that we worked on in our exercise. We did a lot of low weights and lots of repetitions to gain endurance. We did heavy weights with fewer repetitions to gain strength. With either type of weight training, exercise was required in order to increase. When we did not exercise, we would begin to lose strength and endurance. Exercise was vital to increasing both strength and endurance. The same is true in our faith. We must exercise our faith to increase it. Watching others minister may encourage us. Watching others minister may increase our knowledge. But, watching others does not increase our faith. **We grow in our faith by exercising it.** And, without exercising our faith, we can become weaker. God does not want us waning in faith, but growing in faith, so we must exercise.

Take David for example. When David went up to the battlefield and saw Goliath, he told Saul, "let no man's heart fail on account of him, your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." Where did David get the faith to confidently go up against Goliath? He got it doing his everyday chores and responsibilities. As a shepherd, he had faced a lion and a bear. Listen to what David said, "When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, {35} I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued it from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard and struck him and killed him. {36} "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God."

(1 Sam 17:32-36) "David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." {33} Then Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are but a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth." {34} But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the flock, {35} I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued it from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard and struck him and killed him. {36} Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God."

How did David get such big faith? He had exercised his faith in fighting lions and bears. He had no fear of Goliath. Notice that David's faith was not in himself, but in the Lord. In verse thirty-seven, he says, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." David had seen God help him in smaller battles, and now he was confident that the Lord would help him with the bigger battles. He may have started with a mustard seed, but he had tree-sized faith now.

(1 Sam 17:37) "And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you."

Our faith grows by hearing from the Lord. Paul writes in Romans 10:17 that our faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. Paul uses the word *rhema* in this verse instead of *logos*. The *logos* is the written word, and *rhema* is a specific application or revelation that the Holy Spirit quickens in our heart about the written word. When God speaks to us about a matter, our faith and our expectations increase. I have found that it is helpful to memorize and meditate on God's promises, and then to pray those Scriptures. Many times I have received *rhema* of the *logos* while praying or meditating.

(Rom 10:17) "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

What are the things in the kingdom that should be increasing like a mustard seed? I believe that we should be growing in our intimacy and relationship with the Lord. We should be spending time with the Father each day in prayer and in the Word. We should be worshiping the Lord at home and also at church. As we spend time with the Father, we will grow in our relationship.

We should be growing in our understanding and knowledge of Scripture. As we study the Scriptures, we will grow in our knowledge. As we participate in the Women's studies, Men's studies, and Youth studies, we will grow in our knowledge and understanding. If you are not plugged into one of the studies, let me encourage you to start going and participating.

Our character is to be ever increasing in holiness as we become more conformed to His image. Proverbs 4 says that the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn that shines brighter and brighter until the full day. God expects our lives to increase in light and righteousness.

(Pro 4:18) "But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, That shines brighter and brighter until the full day."

Our love for one another should be growing and increasing. On August 26, Karen and I celebrated our 36th wedding anniversary. I told her that I love her much more now than I did when I married her. I know how to love her more now. I have grown more patient. I have grown in kindness. I have grown in my ability to not take into account a wrong suffered. I have grown in my ability to bear all things. I have become less selfless and am able to consider her more important than myself. The end result is that I can love her more now than I could forty years ago. That is the way it should be for all of us. The kingdom of God should be increasing in each one of us. How big are your branches?

Our ministries should be growing every year. Our ability to prophesy should increase. Our ability to minister the gospel should increase. Our discernment and ability to pray over people needs to increase. A question I have to ask myself, "Am I in the same place that I was in 6 months ago, a year ago, 5 years ago? If the answer is yes, something's wrong."

B. The Example of the Leaven

Jesus gave a second parable about the kingdom of God. 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." Again, we see the kingdom of increasing. Jesus hid the leaven or yeast in the flour. The yeast reacts with the sugar in the flour and causes it to ferment. As it ferments, carbon dioxide is given off and the dough expands. Even though the yeast is hidden, it is working in the background, causing the dough to increase in size.

(Luke 13:20-21) "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."

When someone receives Christ into their life, He begins to do a work on the inside, just like the yeast. The Holy Spirit leads us, guides us in truth, and convicts us of sin. The Word of God, like yeast, is living and active, and discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **God does a hidden work inside of us and brings about Kingdom growth.**

What are some catalysts to hidden growth? The Word of God is very important. As we hide God's word in our hearts, we will begin to see change in our lives. My life did not change much until I began to read and study God's word. Like leaven, "the Word of God is living and active, and produces change in our life. It is piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." The word does this hidden work on the inside of a person.

(Heb 4:12) "For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Paul writes about this hidden work in 1 Thessalonians 2. He says that the word of God "performs its work in you who believe." We need to hide God's word in our hearts.

(1 Thess 2:13) "For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe."

Prayer and fasting are very important to kingdom growth. I remember our Senior Pastor at Discovery Church in Orlando coming to me one day and commenting on how much growth he had seen in my life that year. He wanted to know what I was doing that was causing so much growth. I told him that I had started fasting regularly that year. People did not know I was fasting, but like the yeast that was hidden in the dough, it was causing growth in my life.

2. The Entrance Into the Kingdom

The next set of verses speaks of the entrance into the kingdom. There are two main thoughts about the entrance into the kingdom. First, to enter the kingdom of God, we must enter through the narrow door. Second, we must enter while we have an opportunity.

A. We must enter through the narrow door

The first thing to understand about entering the kingdom is that we must enter through the narrow door. While Jesus is proceeding on His way to Jerusalem, someone said to Him, “Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?” Jesus said to them, “Strive to enter through the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.”

(Luke 13:22-24) “And He was passing through from one city and village to another, teaching, and proceeding on His way to Jerusalem. {23} And someone said to Him, "Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?" And He said to them, {24} “Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.”

In Matthew’s account, he says, “enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

(Matt 7:13-14) “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. {14} For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

In John 10, Jesus said, “I am the door of the sheep...I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and find pasture.” Jesus makes it very clear that He is the narrow door. He is the narrow gate. He is the door that people must go through to enter into the kingdom of God.

(John 10:7-9) “So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. {8} "All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. {9} "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

In John 14, Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” It could not be any clearer. Jesus is the only way to the Father. There are other paths, and they are wide paths, but they lead to destruction. The narrow path that leads into the kingdom of God is Jesus Christ. He is the way, the life, and the truth.

(John 14:6) “Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

In Acts 4, Luke writes, “**there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.**” Scripture is very clear. Jesus is the only entrance into the kingdom of God. We must enter in by that narrow door. That is what Jesus is telling the Pharisees and other people listening to Him. They must accept and receive Him to enter into the kingdom of God.

(Acts 4:12) “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

In 1 John 5:12-13, John writes so that we can know for sure if we have eternal life. What is the test of whether we have entered into the kingdom of God? The test is whether we have entered through that narrow door. He writes, “he who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.” If you have never received Christ into your life, let me encourage you to receive Christ this morning.

(1 John 5:12-13) “He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. {13} These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

Paul wrote in Romans 10:9-10 that we must believe in our heart and confess Jesus as Lord. **To enter the door, simply ask Jesus to come in and be Lord of your life.** It is that simple.

(Rom 10:9) “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;”

B. We must enter while there is time. (limited enrollment period)

Next, Jesus encouraged people to enter while there is time. He said that once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, those outside will not be able to come in. He will say to them, I do not know where you are from. Even though they plea to come in, it will be too late. They will say, “we ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.” Going to church, hearing a message, or sharing a meal together will not save you. If you have not asked Christ to come into your life, you will be left on the outside once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door.

(Luke 13:25-27) “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.' {26} "Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets'; {27} and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.'”

At most companies, there is an enrollment period to sign up for health coverage. If you miss the open enrollment period, you have to wait until the following year to enroll. If you want to change plans, you have to wait until the next enrollment period. In the kingdom of God, there is also an enrollment period, and we are in it right now. If you are on the wrong road or plan right now, you can change plans this morning. However, once the enrollment period is over, it will be too late. Jesus is telling them that once the head of the house shuts the door, it will be too late.

We have a glimpse of heaven and hell in our passage today. **Jesus said there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth in that place (hell).** There are a lot of jokes about golf in heaven. I used to tell people that I know for certain that there is no golf in heaven. Why? Because there will be no weeping or gnashing of teeth in heaven, so there will not be any golf in heaven. That is just a joke. I do not know what all we will have in heaven. Hell however, is a different matter. Jesus said that there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. The weeping indicates sorrow, pain, loss, grieving, and sadness. Gnashing of teeth implies anger and strife. What are people angry and upset about? They are upset that they are outside the kingdom of God, but they will be able to see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the kingdom of God. They thought they had a lock on heaven, but they will find out that they are last. They are completely left out, and they will weep and gnash their teeth.

(Luke 13:28-30) “In that place 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, but yourselves being thrown out. {29} And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God. {30} And behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last.”

Jesus is the only way into the kingdom of heaven. He is the door, and there is a limited enrollment period to enter that door. Have you entered that door? Let me encourage you to enter while there is still time. We do not know when the head of the house is going to close the door. We do not know when the Lord is coming back. We do not know if we have tomorrow, or even the rest of the day. This is the most important decision we can make in life, so do not put it off. Ask Jesus to come into your life this morning.

3. The Gospel of the Kingdom

The third area of the kingdom of God that Jesus discussed is the gospel of the kingdom. Some Pharisees approached Jesus, saying, go away, leave here, for Herod wants to kill You. Jesus answered them, “go ahead and tell that fox, ‘behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My goal.’”

(Luke 13:31-32) “Just at that time some Pharisees approached, saying to Him, "Go away, leave here, for Herod wants to kill You." {32} And He said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My goal.'”

Biblical scholars do not believe that this is a literal today, tomorrow, and third day. They do not believe that this event happened three days before His crucifixion. What Jesus is telling them is that **Jesus had come to heal the sick, cast out demons, and preach the gospel to the poor.** When Jesus began His public ministry in Luke 4, He was handed the book of Isaiah and read from chapter sixty-one. He read, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.” Jesus is saying that He has been anointed to preach the gospel of the kingdom. And, this is what Jesus has been doing.

(Luke 4:18-19) “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”

In 1 John 3:8, John tells us the purpose of Jesus' appearance. **Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.** The thief came to steal, kill and destroy, but Jesus came that we might have life. Satan tries to destroy people through sickness, disease, addictions, anger, bitterness, vengeance, unforgiveness and a host of other ways. Jesus came to heal people, free them from their bondages, and to save them. That was His purpose. That is the goal of the kingdom.

(1 John 3:8) "the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil."

(John 10:10) "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Jesus came to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. In Mark 10:45, Jesus said that He did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. Jesus came to pay the price for our sins. He was fully prepared to die; it was for that purpose that He came. Without his death and resurrection, the gospel was not complete. Jesus' goal was to preach the gospel, and to die for our sins. His death and resurrection are part of the gospel message. In Romans 10:9, Paul writes that if we confess with our mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved. **The death and resurrection of Christ is a vital part of the gospel message.**

(Mark 10:45) "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

(Rom 10:9) "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;"

In Luke 19:10, we find that the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost. All of us were lost because of sin in our lives. Jesus came to seek me out and to save me. Jesus came to seek you out and to save you. He came to give His life as a ransom for your life. He came to pay the debt for my sins and your sins. That was the gospel of the kingdom, to seek and to save that which was lost. In order to forgive us of our sins, He needed to die on the cross.

(Luke 19:10) "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Jesus answered the Pharisees that he must journey on to Jerusalem. He said that it cannot be that a prophet would perish outside of Jerusalem. Jesus knew that the Sanhedrin was in Jerusalem. He knew that they would meet and put Him to death in Jerusalem. He knew that His blood would be upon them, just as the prophets before Him was also on them. But, His goal was to preach the gospel, heal the sick, and to give His life as a ransom. He was fully prepared and ready to do what He had been sent to do.

(Luke 13:33) "Nevertheless I must journey on today and tomorrow and the next day; for it cannot be that a prophet would perish outside of Jerusalem."

Finally, Jesus ends by saying "how often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!" Jesus does not want any to perish, but

for all to be saved. We have a response. Jesus does not make anyone follow Him. He does not force people to follow Him. The ISIS Jihadists in Syria and Iraq have been putting thousands of people to death. They give them a choice to follow Allah and denounce their faith, or die. With a gun to their head, if they do not confess Allah, they shoot them. That is not what Jesus did. You can't get into heaven that way. The kingdom of God is like leaven which was hid in a loaf. It is a work on the inside, not a forced work on the outside. Those who confess Jesus and receive Him will be saved.

(Luke 13:34) "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!"

Jesus concludes that their house is left desolate. The Pharisees had been unwilling to look inwardly at their own sins. They had been unwilling to repent of their sins. They were unwilling to see Jesus as the narrow door by which they must enter into the kingdom. Because of that, their house will be desolate. He tells them that they would not see Him again until the time comes when they say, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

(Luke 13:35) "Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you, you will not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"

Conclusion

Have worship team come forward.

Where are you this morning? Have you entered into the kingdom of God? Have you entered into that narrow door? Before the head of the house shuts the door, enter into the door of the kingdom. Ask Christ to come into your life. If you would like to do that, I am going to ask you to come forward this morning. We want to pray with you.

Others of you have already entered by that narrow door. Is the kingdom of God in your life increasing. Is it still a tiny mustard seed, or is it growing? Are you facing some challenges right now? Do you need your mustard seed faith to grow. One man said to Jesus, "help me in my unbelief." If you are wanting an increase in your faith, ask God to increase your faith.

Some of you may not be seeing God's kingdom increase in your life because you have not been spending time in His word, or time in prayer. Make a fresh commitment to start hiding His word in your heart. Start giving yourself to the hidden things that cause growth on the inside. Make a commitment this morning to do what God has laid on your heart.

Some of you have simply not been stepping out and exercising your faith. We find many examples of praying for boldness in the New Testament. If you would like us to pray with you for boldness or any other area, I am going to ask you to come forward this morning. Let's pray.

Introduction (Luke 13:18-35)

1. The Nature of the Kingdom

- Jesus is trying to give _____ about the kingdom of God. (Mark 4:33-34)

A. The Example of the Mustard Seed (Luke 13:18-19)

- Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed because of the _____ of the mustard seed. (Matt 13:31-32)
- When the kingdom of God increases, the _____ will also be positively impacted.
- Our _____ is intended to grow and increase. (Luke 17:5-6)
- We grow in our faith by _____ it. (1 Sam 17:32-37)
- Our faith grows by _____ from the Lord. (Rom 10:17)

B. The Example of the Leaven (Luke 13:20-21)

- God does a _____ work inside of us and brings about Kingdom growth. (Heb 4:12, 1 Thess 2:13)

2. The Entrance Into the Kingdom

A. We must enter through the _____ door. (Luke 13:22-24, Matt 7:13-14, John 10:7-9, 14:6)

- There is salvation in _____ one else. There is _____ other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12, 1 John 5:12-13)
- To enter the door, simply _____ Jesus to come in and be Lord of your life. (Rom 10:9)

B. We must enter while there is _____. (Luke 13:22-30)

- Jesus said that there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth in that place (_____).

3. The Gospel of the Kingdom (Luke 13:31-34)

- Jesus had come to heal the sick, cast out demons, and preach the _____ to the poor. (Luke 4:18-19, Isaiah 61:1-3)
- Jesus came to destroy all the works of the _____. (1 John 3:8, John 10:10)
- Jesus came to serve and give His life as a _____ for many. (Mark 10:45)
- The death and resurrection of Jesus is vital part of the _____ message. (Rom 10:9, Luke 19:10)

Introduction (Luke 13:18-35)

1. The Nature of the Kingdom

- Jesus is trying to give _____ about the kingdom of God. (Mark 4:33-34)

A. The Example of the Mustard Seed (Luke 13:18-19)

- Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed because of the _____ of the mustard seed. (Matt 13:31-32)
- When the kingdom of God increases, the _____ will also be positively impacted.
- Our _____ is intended to grow and increase. (Luke 17:5-6)
- We grow in our faith by _____ it. (1 Sam 17:32-37)
- Our faith grows by _____ from the Lord. (Rom 10:17)

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