

Jesus Teaches About the Kingdom of God

Luke 13:18-35

Key Verse: 13:19

“It [the kingdom of God] is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches.”

1. Read verses 18-19. With what did Jesus first compare the kingdom of God? In what way is the kingdom of God like a mustard seed? What does the tree and the birds perched in its branches suggest?
2. Read verses 20-21. In what way is the kingdom of God like yeast? How is yeast similar to and different from the mustard seed? What do these two metaphors teach us about the kingdom of God?
3. Read verses 22-24. Why was Jesus going to Jerusalem? (9:51;13:33) What was he doing along the way? What did someone ask him?(23) What was his answer?(24) What is the “narrow door”? In what sense is Jesus himself the door? (Jn 10:7)
4. What does it mean to “Make every effort...”? Why are some are denied entrance even though they work hard and seem to make every effort? (25-27) Why is timing important? (25) Read verses 28-30. Why will there be weeping and gnashing of teeth? What does it mean that those who are last will be first and the first, last.
5. Read verses 31-35. What warning did some Pharisees give Jesus? What did Jesus teach about his mission? What was his attitude toward Herod? Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem? What was his longing and hope? What do verses 18-35 teach about the kingdom of God?