

The Gospel According to Luke- Part 6

TITLE: THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

PART 5

| *Spreading Out*

READ LUKE 13:18-21

INTRODUCTION

The Kingdom of God is something that has captivated people since before Jesus was even talking about it. What the Kingdom of God is and what it looks like are the two things that Jesus describes here in verses 18-21. There are a couple of interpretations but the most prominent is that He is referencing the Kingdom as being something that would grow to a large scale throughout all of the world. We have certainly seen throughout history that His Kingdom is capable of growing even in the most hostile environments.

What the Kingdom would grow into was something that Jesus was hinting at here as He talked with the people. A tree so big that the birds would make their nests in it. This is actually a reference to Gentiles. Gentiles are the birds that would come and take refuge in the Kingdom of God when once they were not welcomed and it was reserved only for the Jews. This is only possible through the propagation of the Gospel. (See 1 Corinthians 15) Without the Gospel of Christ there would be no room for the Gentiles, the birds of the air, to come and nest within the safety of the tree.

The Gospel permeates every corner of the world just like yeast in bread. There is no spot that is left unaffected when you mix it into the dough. We are to be spreading the Gospel in the same way a baker spreads yeast through their bread dough. It is to cover every location and cause all of the bread to rise. This doesn't mean that everyone will become a Christian but that we are to spread the message of Christ throughout the world in an effort to see as many people as possible come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. This will cause great relief to the people who are suffering.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the ways you have heard the Kingdom of God described? Were they accurate? How or how not?
2. Why do you think people have a fascination with the Kingdom of God? Read Matthew 28:17-19. What do these verses have to do with the Kingdom?
3. Share with each other what the Gospel is. Now, read through the first few verses of 1 Corinthians 15. What were some similarities and differences of what you each shared to what Scripture says?
4. How do you think the Gospel is best spread to grow the Kingdom of God? Why? Are there other ways that we are missing as believers to share Jesus?
5. What is problematic about saying that everyone will be a Christian? What are the requirements for Christianity? How can we help others follow Christ?

WRAP UP

Jesus was and is mostly concerned with our Spiritual health. That means that He was always concerned with the Kingdom of God because that is our ultimate goal. The Kingdom is strange because we strive for it here and now but we see that it will only fully come when Christ comes back to earth and eradicates evil and defeats it once and for all. Hosanna, Lord come quickly.