

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: The Inevitable Kingdom of God

Passage: Luke 13:18-35 (ESV)

Illustration:

Need: Jesus explains that from seemingly insignificant beginnings God's Kingdom will inevitably advance victoriously.

I. The Kingdom of God advances slowly but surely and completely (13:18-21)

- God's kingdom operates like the tiny mustard seed - something that begins so tiny but becomes the source of rest and protection.
- God's Kingdom operates like a very small amount of leaven in a large amount of dough - give it time and it will unavoidably and completely saturate the entire amount.
- "Within 40 years of Jesus' resurrection the gospel had reached all of the great metropolitan centers of the Roman Empire...by the end of the 2nd century the entire known world had been exposed to the gospel." Swindoll

II. The Kingdom of God demands a specific personal response to enter (13:22-30)

- The number of those who opposed Jesus grew far more rapidly than those who became His followers.
- Yet Jesus maintained that entrance into God's Kingdom required a specific response regarding Him.
- No one automatically qualifies by birth, cultural connection, or heritage; all must enter the Door.
- Striving does not mean working to enter but "straining every nerve" in determination, commitment.
- The door to God's Kingdom closes to individuals at either their death or Jesus's return.
- How bitter for those who have waited so long for God's Kingdom to arrive and to miss it by rejecting their King.
- How sweet the love of God to welcome believers from every corner of the globe to sit at His table.

III. The Kingdom of God will not be hindered and cannot be stopped (13:31-35)

- The unfounded rumor that Herod Antipas wanted to kill Jesus seemed to be a useful intimidation tactic.
- Jesus remains resolute and refuses to be deterred. His mission, God's plan, could not be thwarted.
- Jesus compassionately grieves for His nation who will persist in rejection and reap God's judgment.
- But Israel is not forgotten. She will ultimately repent & embrace her King (Psalm 118:22-29).

IV. Personal Application

- Don't let ever changing world circumstances discourage your Kingdom focus. God's plan is right on time.
- Share the gospel as a regular practice and support legit gospel initiatives around the world.
- Ask God for wisdom and courage to remain faithful as the fires of opposition and persecution rise.