

## Growth and Entrance Standards of the Kingdom Luke 13.18-35

### Growth Parables

<sup>18</sup> Then He said, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? <sup>19</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches." <sup>20</sup> And again He said, "To what shall I liken the kingdom of God? <sup>21</sup> It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

### The Narrow Way

<sup>22</sup> And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup> Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them, <sup>24</sup> "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup> When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' <sup>26</sup> then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' <sup>27</sup> But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' <sup>28</sup> 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, and yourselves thrust out. <sup>29</sup> They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup> And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last."

<sup>31</sup> On that very day some Pharisees came, saying to Him, "Get out and depart from here, for Herod wants to kill You." <sup>32</sup> And He said to them, "Go, tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third *day* I shall be perfected.' <sup>33</sup> Nevertheless I must journey today, tomorrow, and the *day* following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem."

### Jesus Laments over Jerusalem

<sup>34</sup> "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen *gathers* her brood under *her* wings, but you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See! Your house is left to you desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until *the time* comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' "

### Questions:

1. What two things did Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven with? What do we learn about the growth of the kingdom? How does the leaven work within us to reach those around us?
2. Do you see the church today being the unpretentious but infectious kingdom Jesus described in these parables?
3. Why should we strive to enter in at the strait or narrow gate? Why will the lost think they deserved entrance?
4. If the kingdom grows as the mustard seed and leaven predict, why will there not be "many" who are saved?
5. Who would they see in the kingdom of God that would increase their weeping? Where will those come from who will sit down in the kingdom?
6. Who will be among the first and who among the last? v 30 What do you think the reason would be for this reversal of spiritual outcome?
7. How did Jesus react to the Pharisees' warning that Herod was seeking to kill Him? What did He say to go tell Herod?
8. Do you think Jesus treated Herod correctly here? Why was Jesus not intimidated by such threats?
9. In what manner would Jesus have wanted to gather Jerusalem? Why had He not been able to do so?
10. At what time would Jerusalem see Jesus Christ? Why did Jesus leave Jerusalem to herself?
11. In what sense do you think they would then say "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord?" Would they sincerely repent in time?