

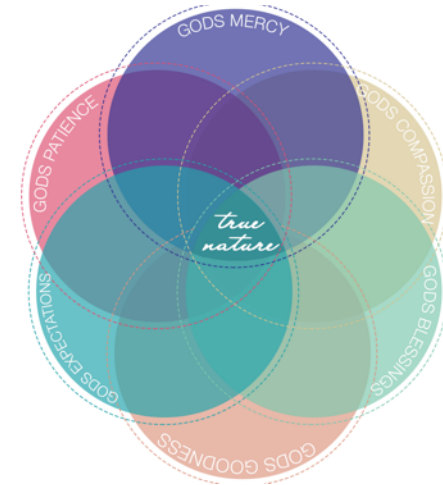
## WALK THE TALK ////////////////////////////////// ////////



*This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!)*

*We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your LIFEgroup. Although you can review it on your own, it will be most useful to you when processed with others!*

1. Why was the topic of the Kingdom so important to the Jewish people?
2. What did you learn about the Kingdom from the two parables of Jesus? How are the two similar and how are they different?
3. What did you learn about the “effort” needed to follow Christ? How can that be different than traditional teaching?
4. How are the excuses of those outside the door similar to excuses that might be used today.
5. What was your most helpful lesson or thought from this study of Luke 13:18-30?



May 28-29, 2016 | God's Compassion | Luke 13:18-30 | Dennis Miller

### TWO LESSONS FOR THIS SERIES:

1. Even though the parables of Jesus are mostly about PEOPLE, we really learn so MUCH about God.
2. We pray, worship, learn, and generally do EVERYTHING better when we understand the NATURE of GOD.

### KINGDOM PARABLES

*Luke 13:18 Then Jesus asked, “What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? 19 It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches.” 20 Again he asked, “What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? 21 It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”*

1. “Then Jesus asked” indicates that this is CONNECTED to the previous story of the woman healed from a DEMON.

*Luke 11:20 But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*

2. The Kingdom was a major TOPIC for the Jews and for Jesus.

*Luke 8:1 After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.*

3. Although He has talked much about the Kingdom BEFORE, Jesus now uses two parables to explain what it is LIKE.

- a. The Kingdom is like a mustard seed which a man planted in his GARDEN and it grew to become a TREE.

— A mustard seed was known for its SMALL SIZE.

*Matt. 17:20 . . . if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. . . .*

*Mark 4:31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth.*

— It was also known for being the LARGEST garden plant.

*The meaning was clear:*

— The Kingdom would START SMALL.

— It would become very LARGE.

— It would be INCLUSIVE, “the birds nested (κατασκηνῶω, kataskēnōō) not PERCHED in its branches.”

*Ezek. 17:23 On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches.*

b. The Kingdom is also like YEAST used in BREAD-making.

— It is the SMALLEST part of the ingredients (in fact, unnoticed at the beginning) but it has the MOST noticeable effect.

— Again, the Kingdom (yeast) would start SMALL and grow to be very LARGE.

— It would have great IMPACT on the whole WORLD (60 pounds of flour).

— Since bread is such a STAPLE, this parable also suggests that the Kingdom is for EVERYONE.

c. The mustard seed and its “tree” represents the OUTWARD influence of the Kingdom in this world, while the yeast would teach us about the INWARD influence on each life.

### **KINGDOM WARNING**

*Luke 13:22 Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. 23 Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?” He said to them, 24 “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. 25 Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’ “But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ 26 “Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you*

*taught in our streets.’ 27 “But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’ 28 “There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. 29 People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. 30 Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.”*

1. Jesus continues to move TOWARDS Jerusalem and is asked a question about how MANY will be saved.

2. Jesus indicates that it is more DIFFICULT than many people want to BELIEVE. *Do you remember how this chapter began?*

*Luke 13:3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.*

a. One must “*make every effort*.” The word is ἀγωνίζομαι, agōnizomai, and means to STRIVE or AGONIZE.

b. The door is NARROW, which means that you take NOTHING with you. You enter trusting Christ ALONE.

c. More will FAIL to enter than will SUCCEED.

d. At some point, the door will CLOSE for each person and there will be NO more opportunities.

e. People will knock on the door and PLEAD. They will give REASONS why they should be able to enter.

— “We were FAMILIAR with Jesus.” (Know Who He is)

— “We went to CHURCH.”

f. But there will be no SECOND chances. *(Some will be crying and others will be angry, but it won’t help them.)*

— They will see the TRUE followers of God INSIDE. (28)

— They will see GENTILES inside. (29)

— They will realize that salvation is not based on HERITAGE, but upon each individual’s REPENTANCE.

### **REMEMBER:**

Your life as a follower of Jesus Christ may have STARTED with a DECISION, but without repentance and priority, it is USELESS. *“If He isn’t Lord OF all, He isn’t Lord AT all!”*