

Luke 13: 18-35

Images of God's Kingdom



Think about and discuss one or two questions from each section.

The text – Luke 13:18-35

1. Read Luke 13:18-35. This passage, as part of a longer section of Luke extending to Luke 17, is all about the Kingdom of God and those who are members of God's Kingdom.
2. What do you understand the Kingdom of God to be?
3. What do the two short parables in 13:19-21 have in common? What is the main point Jesus is making about the Kingdom with reference to the mustard seed and the leaven?
4. In 13:22-30, Jesus teaches about a "narrow door". Discuss this parable. What is meant by the fact that the door is "narrow"?
5. Jesus is on the road to Jerusalem (13:22). What does the name "Jerusalem" mean? What has this city become throughout its history? What is Jesus' attitude towards Jerusalem?

The Scriptures – Luke 13:18-35 as a portion of the Scriptures

6. Matthew uses the term "Kingdom of God" as synonymous with the term "Kingdom of heaven". Neither of these terms means leaving the earth behind, rather God and heaven coming to the earth. Read and discuss two short parables about God's Kingdom in Matthew 13:44-46. What is the main point Jesus makes in these parables.
7. The term "Kingdom of God" only occurs in the New Testament. However, the recognition that God is King and celebration of God's rule is found throughout Old Testament Scriptures. Often God's rule is associated with King David and Jerusalem and yet God is also recognised as King of all creation. Read and discuss Psalm 47 as one important Old Testament psalm about God the King.

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Luke 13:18-35 as a portion of the Scriptures

8. What are some of the most important differences between the Kingdom of God and other worldly kingdoms?
9. What has challenged you as you have read and discussed Luke 13:18-35?
10. How can we pray for you as you seek to live as a citizen of God's Kingdom?