

The Gospel of Luke

An Invitation to be Reassured

Sunday, November 17, 2013

Luke 13:18-14:35

I. Introduction

Focus Point: “The Kingdom of God is slow building, narrow and limited, but it is growing and will permeate everything and those who are a part of the Kingdom there is great cost.”

II. The Kingdom of God (13:18-14:24)

Jesus tells the parables of the Kingdom of God to call people to trust. He is building His kingdom and people should trust that it is coming even though it starts out looking insignificant. God’s plan is advancing and nothing will stop it!

a) Narrow Door (13:22-30)

v.22 – “journeying toward Jerusalem...”

v.24 – Strive to enter...” make every effort or labor to get in. This implies that there is a specific route by which to enter and it is a narrow door. Those who fail to enter by that door, even though they desire to get in, will not succeed.

This serves as a warning to Israel and us; the time to respond is NOW!

v.28 – The end result of not responding now!

v.29,30 – People will respond from all around the world, and you Israel are first but you will be last and those that are last will be first.

“The question, “Will those who are saved be few?” has become “Will the saved be you?”

b) Lament Over Jerusalem (v.31-35)

v.31 – “Herod wants to kill you.” – No panic on Jesus part and he tells them to tell ‘the fox’ Jesus will continue to heal, cast out demons, until it is time for him to die.

c) Sabbath Healing (14:1-6)

Luke introduces another healing on the Sabbath. Why?

To see if there is any change in the way they view Jesus...but they remain silent! They are still blinded and hardhearted!

d) Wedding Feast (v.7-11)

This parable is about genuine humility and that we ought not to try and honor ourselves because we could get embarrassed.

v.11 – Connection that exaltation by God, not self-exaltation, is where honor resides and that God is committed to exalting the humble.

e) Great Banquet (v.12-24)

This closing parable at the meal scene serves as a summary of all Jesus has warned the nation about over the last couple of chapters.

Here is the parable. The original invitees represent Israel and their lack of response. They have been given plenty of time to join the celebration but have chosen not to do it.

Others (Gentiles) previously thought excluded from the celebration will get invitations. These people will represent the spread of the gospel beyond the bounds of needy Israel. Sadly, Israel, though first in line, is missing her chance to sit at the table. The first have indeed become last!

III. The Cost of the Kingdom of God (14:25-35)

a) Disciples of Christ (v.25-33)

Discipleship is not easy, but our accountability to God and the rigor of the task require that we understand the commitment required that we understand the commitment required to walk successfully as his disciples.

v.33 – “So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.”

b) Tasteless Salt (v.34-35)

Final warning is a picture of salt. Salt is of value and useful as long as it continues to be salty.

IV. Conclusion

“The Kingdom of God is slow building, narrow and limited, but it is growing and will permeate everything and those who are a part of the Kingdom there is great cost.”