

## Message #69

## Luke 13:18-30

One of the biggest scandals in politics occurred in the 1920's during the Presidency of Warren Harding. President Harding had appointed Albert B. Fall as his Secretary of the Interior. When Theodore Roosevelt was President, he had set aside certain tracks of oil in order to meet the future needs of the United States Navy. The supply of oil was abundant so under the leadership of President Harding, it was decided to lease some of the government land and dispose of some of the oil reserves.

The man who was put in charge of getting rid of the excess oil was Albert Fall. Well, he figured out a way to get rich. He contacted different companies and they gave him a nice, illegal kickback for the oil. One company gave him \$250,000 and another gave him \$100,000. The new found wealth of Albert Fall aroused the suspicions of the Secret Service and agents began to carefully look into how he was making so much money. What they discovered is that he was getting rich off of money that should have gone to the government.

In 1929, Albert Fall, the Secretary of the Interior of the United States, went to jail. He was fined \$100,000 and he spent one year in prison. His greed and corruption finally tracked him down. He was fully exposed, he was eliminated from his position and he was punished. Albert Fall turned out to be a fraud pretender.

There is a punishment coming to another type of fraud much greater than this. It is a judgment that will come from Almighty God against religious frauds. There are those who creep into the religious realm who are not right with God. They look the part; they act the part and they sound the part, but their hearts are not right and, in the end, those who are playing these games will pay forever.

Every Sunday many people dress up and drive to some church. They go inside and shake hands and sing and throw some money in the offering plate and listen to a sermon and then they get back in their car and drive home. They take off their church clothes and basically forget God for another week. Somehow they think this religious action guarantees them a great future. What they don't realize is that without a relationship with Jesus Christ there is a future, but it will not be what they were expecting.

That is what Jesus wanted these people to know. This is a very sober text because what Jesus teaches here is this:

**MANY CORRUPT RELIGIOUS PEOPLE PRETEND TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD, BUT THEY WILL EVENTUALLY BE EXPOSED, ELIMINATED AND ETERNALLY PUNISHED.**

Whether it is the Kingdom of God pertaining to Israel, or the work of God pertaining to the church, hypocrites will ultimately be exposed, eliminated and punished.

We may observe that **verse 18** begins with a “So He was saying.” This gives us a contextual succession of time and event. In other words, shortly after the episode of healing the crippled woman, which angered the Pharisees, this discussion took place. The pharisaical and hypocritical response triggered this.

**What we immediately may observe is that four times in this context we read “Kingdom of God” (13:18, 20, 28, 29).** This particular phrase seems to refer to the entire time frame of God’s Kingdom work from the first coming of Christ until the second coming of Christ.

A kingdom required three things:

- 1) There needed to be one who rules - a kingdom requires a ruler.
- 2) There needs to be those who are ruled - a kingdom requires people.
- 3) There needs to be a realm for the ruling - a kingdom requires a place for the ruler and people.

So the “kingdom of God” would be any place where God reigns over His people from the first coming of Christ to the second coming of Christ. These verses describe what will happen.

There are three kingdom realizations that Christ presents:

**KINGDOM REALIZATION #1** – As the kingdom begins there will be an infiltration of evil inhabitants. **13:18-19**

The illustration Christ gives is that of a mustard seed which is planted and grows to become a great tree.

Normally, a mustard seed produces a plant which grows to stand 4-9 feet tall. There have been instances in which a plant did grow to be over 30 feet tall, but this is very rare. If a mustard seed grew to produce a great tree, it is a distorted oddity.

Jesus uses this illustration to give us insight into the program of God. Christ has already used the imagery of the “birds of the air” (Luke 8:5) to refer to evil Satanic forces that oppose God and His word and that is what He means here as well (Luke 8:11-12).

What Christ is saying is this. The program of God is going to develop precisely like this illustration. It will start out small, like a mustard seed, but it will grow and grow and grow and eventually become so large that evil forces will sneak into it and will house themselves there. They are evil and they do not belong. They are not part of the tree; they are just nesting. They are evil and they oppose God’s word and they are trying to destroy God’s fruit.

God’s program started small but it began to grow and many who are not right with God have joined in pretending they are right with God. They are in the organization, but they do a corrupt work. It happened in Ephesus (Acts 20:28-31); Galatia (Gal.1:6-9); and it happened to Titus on the island of Crete (Titus 1:16).

I talked with a man in Florida who was the epitome of being a heathen. He said that he believed God loved him and everyone no matter what. When I said no He doesn't, he didn't want to hear it. Corrupt religious people not right with God do not want truth. They want to believe what they want to believe.

There will always be corrupt fowls around the true work of God.

**KINGDOM REALIZATION #2** – As the kingdom develops, it will become progressively corrupt. **13:20-21**

Leaven was old fermented dough that if mixed with new unfermented dough would ferment the entire loaf. **In the Bible, the imagery of leaven is never used in a positive way. It is always used in a negative way.**

1) **Luke 12:1** - leaven is used as a symbol of hypocrisy (Matt. 16:6).

2) **I Corinthians 5:6-7** - Leaven is used as a symbol for sin in the church.

3) **Galatians 5:9** - Leaven is used as a symbol for doctrine that is corrupt.

Leaven is not used in a positive way when it comes to the work of God.

When leaven is first mixed with new dough, you cannot see or tell much of a difference. It seems to blend in with all the other ingredients. But it doesn't take long for you to realize that just a little leaven will corrupt the entire loaf. The leaven works secretly and silently and ends up corrupting and leavening the whole lump.

Jesus is saying that is what is going to happen in God's kingdom work. It will start out new and pure and fresh. But certain hypocrites will creep into the work and will start corrupting it. If it is not spotted and eliminated, it will pollute everything.

We may assume that the closer we get in the Kingdom program to the coming of Jesus Christ, in any dispensation, the more there will be a great corrupting movement which will attempt to pull people away from the word of God and the pure true paths of God.

This is why it is so important that the church be a place that clearly and carefully teaches God's word and obeys it. Any other type of philosophy is destined to cause deterioration of God's society.

**KINGDOM REALIZATION #3** – As the kingdom ends it will be inhabited by a small minority, not a large majority. **13:22-30**

Any who think that the majority of people in this world are on their way to heaven had better take a serious look at this text.

We know from passages like Revelation 5:11 and Revelation 7:9 that the total number of people who have believed on Jesus Christ will be vast. It will be an incalculable number. But the question here is whether or not in comparison to the number who won't be saved, will that number be few or many?

In this vast world filled with all kinds of religions, will it be the majority who will be saved or will it be the minority? Christ's answer is the minority.

Recently someone said all religions are good because they all lead to the same conclusion. Truth is there is only one that leads to heaven and all the others lead to hell.

There are six facts that Jesus Christ brings out about those who will enter God's eternal Kingdom:

**Fact #1** - There is only one narrow way of entrance. **13:24a**

**The only way one will be allowed to enter God's eternal kingdom is by walking through one door and that one door is to come to Jesus Christ by faith like a child (Luke 18:16-17). One must admit one is a sinner. One must admit one is sinfully sick and by faith call on Jesus Christ for salvation (Luke 31-32).**

Jesus said: "unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

Jesus said: "I am the door, if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved." John 10:9

Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."  
John 14:6

A person may be religious, a person may be baptized, a person may be a tither, a person may be moral and upstanding; but unless that person comes to faith in Jesus Christ, he will never gain entrance into heaven or the Kingdom of God.

Jesus Christ is the only entrance. He is the only door. He is the only way. He is the narrow gate. Try to enter any other way and you will forever lose.

**Fact #2** - Many will seek to enter by other ways. **13:24b**

The vast majority of people think they can get into heaven by their religion or by their works. People are so arrogant that they actually have convinced themselves that their works and religion equals the righteousness found in Jesus Christ. Most believe that and most will end up burning in hell.

**Fact #3** - Many will be rejected by Jesus Christ. **13:25**

Christ likens His kingdom to a master of a house who eventually shuts the door and leaves many outside. Do you see this? There is a door of opportunity that will eventually be shut. People need to go through that door while the invitation is open and while there is still time.

Some make Jesus Christ out to be some glazed-eyed, emotional being who must allow everyone to go to heaven. He is not that. He will slam the door shut and once He does, it is too late and you do not get in.

If you die without inviting Jesus Christ into your life to be your Savior, you will not enter heaven.

Those who refuse to enter the narrow gate will discover that narrow gate will eventually be closed and no one will get in, once the gate is closed. The opportunity is here and now.

**Fact #4** - Many will appeal to their religious heritage and works. **13:26-27**

There will be people who say we went to your services. We heard you teach. We were part of the action. We ate and drank in Your presence, which certainly in this age would have an application to taking communion. Jesus says, "I tell you I do not know where you are from." You are evil so depart from Me.

There will be people who will say Lord we went to church all the time.

We took communion.

We served on committees.

We sang hymns and sang in the choir.

We hung around the religious action.

We went to retreats and Christian concerts and fellowship dinners.

Jesus will say, "depart from Me; I don't know you and you are evil doers."

**Fact #5** - Many will be rejected and will eternally suffer. **13:28-29**

There are two types of anguish in hell that we learn of here:

**(Anguish Type #1)** - There will be physical anguish. **13:28a**

The concept of weeping and gnashing teeth is the concept of agonizing pain that is to such a degree that there is a loud crying and grinding of teeth. It is such intense pain that one drop of water on the tip of a finger would quench the thirst (Luke 16:23-24).

**(Anguish Type #2)** - There will be mental anguish. **13:28b-29**

Carefully observe from **verse 29** that there will be people who will be in God's Kingdom from all over the world. There will be people who will be there from the east, west, north and south.

There will also be an eternal awareness of all those enjoying God's kingdom while burning in hell. The Jew will particularly be aware that many Gentiles worldwide are in this kingdom sharing it with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, while many Jews are burning.

**Fact #6** - One's present status has before people nothing to do with one's eternal status before God. **13:30**

Many religious Jews thought they were heading to the Kingdom of God and they were wrong. Their religion could not get them entrance; only Jesus Christ can.

A person may appear to be the most spiritual person in existence, but really be the last person God would ever let into heaven because they have not believed on Jesus Christ.

It is intriguing that the first, prophetically speaking, who will enter eternity will not be the Jews. You would have thought that because Jesus came to them first. The first will be the church at the Rapture.

Fraud religious pretenders eventually will pay a very high price. The door of salvation is open to any sinner and the invitation is to believe on Jesus Christ. Will you do that? Will you trust Him?