

THE GOSPEL OF *Luke*



Week 15: The Saving Effects of God's Rule

Introduction: Only a few days from Jerusalem, much of Luke 13 emphasizes some of the major themes Luke has previously pressed upon his readings. This week's study begins centering on discussions about the Sabbath following a miraculous healing of a crippled woman in a synagogue (Luke 13:10-17). While all of the Gospel authors paint a picture of God's "upside-down" kingdom, Luke arguably paints the largest picture of all. We encounter another discussion of unexpected guests dining at God's table (Luke 13:22-30), and conclude with Jesus longing for the Jewish people to come to Him, knowing many of them won't (Luke 13:31-35).

Note: As you discuss questions in your groups or reflect on them by yourself, keep in mind that the goal is not to get all the answers right. Many of us will not know the answers, and that is okay! The goal is to interact with God's Word and give genuine thought to it. If you struggle to even guess a possible answer, that is okay too! The pastors will provide the answers after your discussion so you can know and record them on your study guide.

Questions:

Read Luke 13:10-17

1. After Jesus heals the crippled woman, the synagogue leader addresses the public by criticizing Jesus' healing (the leader is possibly referencing Deuteronomy 5:12-13). How does Jesus respond, and why do you think the crowds enjoyed His response so much?

Answer:

2. This passage seems to echo themes from Jesus' words from Mark 2:27, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." How do you think the Sabbath is made for man? In other words, what is the value or purpose of attending worship?

Answer:

Read Luke 13:18-21

3. What do you think is significant about comparing the Kingdom of Heaven to a “mustard seed” and “leaven?” How do these metaphors fit into the message of Jesus’ parable?

Answer:

Read Luke 13:22-30

4. How do you make sense of Jesus’ comments about “Striving to enter through the narrow door?” Doesn’t this seem to contradict being saved by grace?

Answer:

5. Jesus describes the people dining in God's Kingdom as coming from all directions (east and west, north and south), and that "the last will be first and the first will be last." What is the significance of these descriptions?

Answer:

Read Luke 13:31-35

6. This section seems to be strategically placed to emphasize Jesus' previous comments about who will or who won't be saved. Ultimately, why is it that some people, even some very religious or moral people, are condemned?

Answer:

Closing Thought: Jesus sincerely desires all people to come to Him, bask in His love, and live in the truth. More than a hen may make herself vulnerable for the sake of her chicks, Jesus gave Himself up in every way so that by any means, all people might be saved. Jesus is correct in saying that the door to God's Kingdom is narrow-for it only goes through Him! However, it is clear that Jesus desires all people to enter through this door and enjoy the feast He has waiting for them in the life to come.