

Not
School's out!

Summer lessons from the parables

Kingdom of God

- ★ Already on not yet
- ★ It's started with Jesus coming
- ★ It will be fully realized when Jesus returns



Main Point

The Kingdom of God; it's here and it's coming, it's growing and transforming



On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.”

Luke 13: 10-12 NIV



Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, "There are six days work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath."

Luke 13: 13-14 NIV



The Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?” When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

Luke 13: 15-17 NIV



The Set Up

- ★ Jesus SEES a woman who needs healing and heals her
- ★ Synagogue leader says this violates Sabbath law
- ★ Jesus' focus is on the spirit of the law



NINJA DODGEBALL



- NO HITTING IN THE HEAD
- YOU SIT DOWN
- I HAVE TO JUMP
- I CAN BLOCK
- I CAN'T BLOCK
- HIT ONLY BELOW THE KNEES
- HIT ABOVE MY WAIST

People Over Procedures

- ★ We should be about people
- ★ Relationships help us see people
- ★ Different views don't have to cause division
- ★ You always matter



Then Jesus asked, “What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? 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.”

Luke 13: 18-19 NIV



The Mustard Seed

- ★ Tiny seed to massive tree
- ★ Strong enough for those from all over to nest in
- ★ Visible growth

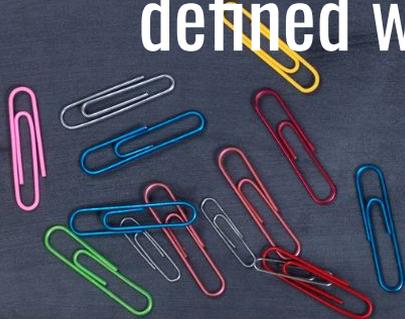


TREE POSE



Growth

- ★ Starts small but grows by being watered and cared for
- ★ Water the roots
- ★ Grow into something strong, secure, full of hope
- ★ Jesus started the growth and it'll be more defined when He returns



Again he asked, “What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”



Luke 13: 20-21 NIV



The Yeast

- ★ Yeast is used positively here
- ★ Gets into something and spreads
- ★ It TRANSFORMS the dough



Yeast and Dough



Transformation

- ★ Be fluffy cinnamon roll followers of Jesus
- ★ Be willing to be transformed
- ★ Let Jesus inside to do His thing



The Healing and The Kingdom

- ★ Jesus healed one person
- ★ He started small knowing His teaching would spread
- ★ When the Kingdom fully comes everyone will be healed



Wrap Up

- ★ Be in relationships and see people
- ★ Let Jesus grow you and His Kingdom
- ★ Be willing to let Jesus transform you
- ★ Take joy that the Kingdom is here and be excited for the Kingdom to come



Audio file

[Kingdom of God Audio Only.mp3](#)

Transcript

I remember going to going to a job interview once where I had this one expectation of a job that the recruiter gave me. So it was a bigger company and they were kind of like a logistics company. So in essence what they did was they'd be a company that needed something shipped and they would go through this company to get somebody to move it for whether it was by truck or somewhere else. So they were kind of. Making you know connecting the dots to get it from point A from point B, and the recruiter made it sound like the job is just. Yeah, there there's these loads from these companies and here's the trucking companies we work through and just got to match it all up and make it happen. I'm like, I could do that sounds great. Going to the interview and I'm in there with the manager and one of the employees and I kind of tell him that and they asked me about how do you feel about cold calling? I'm like, well, I'm cold. Calling sucks like I did it for a job once. I hate it. They're like, that's 90% of this job. I was like, what? So I describe him like. That's not the recruiter said he's like what the recruiter said and I told him they just looked at me like that is completely not what the job. I was like, oh, like I think we're done. Here and they're like, yeah, I think we are. So anyway, that was very different from what I anticipated. And just to say, I did not work there, which is a. Good thing. But today we're going to talk about something that people had a perception on, but was actually very different. And that is going to be the Kingdom of God. So it's actually very different than how people in Jesus's day thought it was going to come in, what it was going to be like. Even what Jesus says the Messiah was going to do. So that's what he's going to describe today. Now the Kingdom of God, before we launch in, is often described as already and not yet, which means the Kingdom of God has already come like it's come with Jesus. Is coming, but it's not yet fully realized and won't be until he returns, so it's already here. It's been started, but it's still coming all in the same way, right? So we're going to see today in a parable, actually 2 parables how Jesus describes the Kingdom of God and how we still this anticipation for what is to come. How we benefit now and the anticipation of it for still to come, what I want you to think about what the Kingdom of God is. This that the Kingdom of God, it's here and it's coming, it's growing and it's transforming. So it's here and it's still coming. And it's also growing and transforming. Those are the things we'll see in the. Troubles I was trying to think of it. What's a better way to break this down and think like cookie dough for a second? Right. So you have cookie dough, right? It's all mixed together. You can taste it. It's pretty good. You're not supposed to. But we all. Do it anyway, right? The raw egg, but we still do it. You lick the wooden spoon, right? That's good. You get a taste and it's great, but it's still coming into the delicious. Fluffy cookie that's going to happen when it bakes. It's going to grow into this cookie. It's going to transform into a full cookie from the dough. That's kind of what we're. Going to see today. All right. So before Jesus launches into these parables, as always, we set this scene. There's always a reason Jesus is giving these parables. Sometimes he is. Was responding to a question. Sometimes somebody is trying to trap him and see how he interprets the Old Testament scripture or something like that. Today it starts by him actually doing what I'm doing. He's in a synagogue on the Sabbath and he's teaching. That's kind of our setup. That's what he's doing and something's going to happen that will lead him to this. So let's see it. We're going to be in Luke chapter 13. Starting with verse

10, today it's marked in your Bibles there on the table. It will also be up here behind me. You want to use a phone or a tablet? I will be in the NIV translation. Let's start with verses 10 through 17 and see what's going on on a Sabbath. Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for 18 years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all when Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her woman you are set free from your infirmity. Then she put his hands on her and immediately she straightened up and praised God, indignant, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people. There are six days for work, so come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath. The Lord answered him. You hypocrites doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan is kept bound for 18 long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her when he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing. We will stop there. So Jesus is teaching. On the Sabbath and it being the Sabbath is important and he notices a woman in the audience just like this that's been crippled for a long time and says by a spirit. So basically what they're getting at is they wouldn't have found any sort of medical explanation. They're making this a spiritual thing she cannot get out of this. She was probably. Known well by her community and the people around knew it, and she may have also been separated a little bit from that. Community being crippled, she was a woman. She was crippled. That may have kind of ostracized her from the community. Jesus sees her. And heals her. She doesn't step up and come to Jesus to be healed. She doesn't say teach her, heal me. Get me rid of this. Jesus notices her and sees. Then he heals her, puts his hand on her, and she is good. She gets what just happened and she praises God. She understands she has just been freed and healed. This should be great, right? If this happened here, in this room. Everybody should be jumping up and down excited about it, right? Yeah, that's not what happened here. It says the synagogue leader is indignant. He's appalled. He's mad. This cannot happen. Because it's the Sabbath and what Jesus did, he deemed to be. You can't work on the Sabbath now. The synagogue had a leader. That's what this guy is. He was there, kind of to be in charge of making sure there was faithful reading of the scriptures and of the law and kind of keep in charge of everything. So he says you can't do this, he said. It's due around on me 5, which I'll paraphrase. Basically observe the Sabbath, keep it holy. There are six days to work. But on the 7th is the Sabbath for the Lord, and you should now. Work he deemed. Healing this woman work. Work, he says. Woman come, be healed on the Sabbath. First off, she didn't come to be healed. Jesus saw her and did it. And 2nd that he says this is working. Jesus like no, no now we get a power struggle which in. Jesus and this guy and he says, hypocrites. I like when Jesus calls people hypocrites. That would be like he's like dude, no, you guys are hypocrites. He's saying you will untie your donkey. Which is tied up bound by its reins to a pole and lead it to water. In essence, you will release it from the rains where it's tied to the post and care for it by taking it to water. That's not work, but me healing this woman who is bound by an evil spirit, hunched over and crippled for 18 years. That's work. He's like no way. Why shouldn't we be able to do this for a? Person that needs. Healing on the Sabbath, the day shouldn't matter. He's not saying the Sabbath isn't important. He's not saying the law isn't important, but he's like you guys are so focused. And being letter of the law right to the rule that you miss the spirit of the law, the spirit of Jesus. They're so focused on the rules, they don't understand the spirit behind it. I've shared stories before about games on the trampoline with my kids. We're going to go there again. Jeremiah has made-up a game. You can bring up the next one here. There is called ninja. Dodgeball, OK, We play ninja dodge. Well, Jeremiah is in karate. He loves it. He loves his ninja. Moves to dodgeball. Well, Jeremiah, along with loving games, loves to make up the rules and he makes up a lot of them and

they constantly. OK, now this game should seem simple. Oh, yeah. While you're playing like it should be simple, right? I sit on the trampoline and I throw a ball at my kid. He tries to get out of the. Way is a great game. I literally sit there and just Chuck the ball at him. Simple, but it's not. But here come the rules. You can't hit me in the head. I have to be sitting down. Jeremiah has to jump. He's like I can block. No, I can't block anymore. You can only hit him below the knees. Now you can only hit me above the waist. I wanna jump now. I want a duck and it just keeps changing so much. To the point Stacy and I have had to have multiple conversations like dude, if you just keep doing this, you're missing the fun of just playing the. Game like just have fun. The spirit of the game and just play. This is similar to how Jesus has to deal with the situation. In the synagogue. They're so. Focused on the rules they're missing. The spirit of it. Jesus is about the people, not about the procedure of the synagogue. He's about the people, not the procedure. The synagogue president was all about the letter of the law and the. That was it. That's all that matters. Jesus was all about the people he ate with people he wasn't supposed to. He talked to him. He healed all this kind of stuff because the people matter. We need to remember that that the people are what matter. You each individually matter. There is no church without the people. Think about Jesus. He saw this one woman. I don't know how many people were there, whether it's big or small or what. But he saw one person. We need to see each other a lot of times when people are hurt or struggling, they may not want to speak up and talk about it. This woman didn't. But Jesus saw her. So we want to look around and see each other, see people. This is why relationships are so important. Having friendships and relationships helps us see where other people are, whether they're happy, they're sad, they're hurt, they're healed, they're broken, they're healthy, whatever. But you see people because they matter. And also I think it helps us in relationship understand how other people might think, right, whether you agree or not have relationships with people that might think differently than you. Different views don't have to cause division, they often do. I read a book by pasting Andy Stanley, who pastors in Georgia, and he had a quote in the book that says. Vision often happens because sometimes a person prioritizes a view over a you. They prioritize a view over a you. Anything and this can be anything from politics to technology to sports to music. But this view on something causes it a vision, and doesn't have to, because the you matters. That's what always matters. It doesn't mean that structures and systems and order aren't important. We have that here, right. Everything that happens in order I send out a sheet to our. Leadership team every week. About the order of what's going to happen on Sunday, that stuff matters, but it never takes precedent over the people because the people matter. You matter, people matter. They matter to Jesus. People matter to us, and they should. So Jesus kind of sees you guys are getting this wrong and they get it wrong a lot, but he keeps going and he's like, alright, I'm going to explain to you what the Kingdom of God is really going to be like, cause you have that wrong too. So he launches in to two parables. They're both super short. We're going to start with this first one. Luke 13:18 through 19 is the parable of the mustard Seed. Then Jesus asked, what is the Kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It's like a mustard seed which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched on its branches. That's it, the mustard seed. So he launches into these two parables about the Kingdom of God to show them what it's already about now. Their perception was when this Kingdom comes, it's going to be loud and big and authoritative. It's going to restore Israel to its rightful place. And is going to be authoritative. There's going to be restoration, but Jesus isn't doing it like they thought, he says. It's more like this little mustard seed, tiny little seed that's planted and it grows into this massive tree. And as I was looking up mustard trees and everything in this time. Mustard would grow into more like a big. Kind of Bush or small tree. It would grow to like 20 to 30 feet, but it could also grow out more wide and the the branches would kind

of droop. It would look sad and maybe almost kind of weak. Not something super sturdy or strong like. A Redwood or a? Big strong oak tree Jesus says it's going to start with that mustard seed, but it's going to grow into something strong. And big good. Enough that has branches that birds can come and nest on birds from all over the world, not just Israel, not just one place. They can come for safety, for comfort, for a home. So Jesus is saying the Kingdom is starting and starting small right now with a few people. Eventually it'll come to a few churches and it'll just grow into something strong. And then when he's saying when it grows. And it grows even bigger people from all over the world will be a part of it. Not all from the same place. They look the same or act the same, or are the same. But people that come to the same tree to find security and hope in the same place from the same thing, and that is Jesus. That's what the seed grows into, its invisible upward outward growth. So this big, strong thing. Up here we have. This and I have a tree posing of two pictures of trees. Now I have been for a few weeks in physical therapy to try to strengthen. I have some neck issues and upper back strengthening and as I was in there talking to my physical therapist, he said you need to do some mobility and some flexibility stuff and like yeah, my wife's been trying to get me to do yoga with her for years. He's like. You're going to do it now. So I am so we're trying and this week we're doing yoga on Wednesday, it's still a task to get me to do it. But tree pose came up. There is a pose called tree pose and it's supposed to be the strong base pose and something like I'm going to fall over doing it right. But like you bring your foot up, right, and you're supposed to come to here and then eventually get up here, right? Any of you that are serious about yoga? I'm sorry, this is probably terrible, but the point is you have this strong base, you grow to the strong base and you get stronger up here. So like. The kids can even come and, like, hang on it right now. I'm not nearly staring strong if I don't look like those redwoods when I do yoga, I look like that tree over there. That's like this smooth kind of thing. Like I can't do it because I have to grow into it, right? I'm like that seed that still needs to grow, but it's. Harding Jesus talks about the seed that's going to grow into this big, strong tree. Growth is the key. Jesus, like the Kingdom of God, is here. It's gonna grow now. We hear Kingdom of God and it sounds big and loud and powerful. Right. And it will be, but again, but it starts small, it's not a big pre-made tree that was just dropped off and planted in some dudes garden. It's actually starting from that seed and from there it is watered and cared for and it grows. Jesus started it. So it's here and it's growing and we're still watering it. That seed and helping care for it. And we want it to grow. Into what? Jesus describes what Jesus wants it to be, a place of security, place of home, a place that's comfort and to model that. So we need to make sure that we're watering First off. Personally, our own roots, right, that we're taking care of that own seed, spending time with God. This will always help strengthen our relationships with him and our roots. Even if it's not a long. Time we talk about. This is a lot right that even if you have 5 minutes to spend with God, 5 minutes to read to listen to a song or anything that helps strengthen your relationship, there may be times when you feel like I'm not growing in God because I'm wrestling with something or I'm struggling with something. If you're talking with him about that, your relationship is growing because you're keeping him involved. Even if you're asking questions, you're struggling or you're wrestling, but you're keeping him involved growing that relationship stronger. We want to strengthen our roots as a church. We get together and we grow together. Right. Being together helps us strengthen our roots as a church here. We come on Sunday mornings for worship, for teaching and for community. Just being together. Our small groups, even though they're on their summer. I'll break when we get together for those. Things can get a little more personal, go deeper into what's going on and those relationships we talked about in the first section can grow and it helps us see each other as we grow together through those small groups. And then our events just hanging out, you can actually grow and strengthen a relationship by actually just

getting together and having fun together. It does happen. But it's just being together and when we do all of this, we're watering our seed as a church and it helps us become a place where people can come to find a church home. We have the slogan. When you're here, your home, we want people to feel that to nest here. Right when we get sick at our house, sometimes we have we build what we call a nest in our living room. So we bring a bunch of comfy blankets and pillows stuffies for the kids. If somebody's sick and put it in a recliner. And it's this place where you just kind of fall into you feel all warm and cozy, and you start to heal and. Get better and you're comfortable. That's that kind of thing when you think about a nest being built. Into the tree. That's what we want your place here and your place with God can be like that. And it starts small. But it grows into that place of security and hope and healing that is welcoming to people from anywhere from everywhere, no matter what their background or experiences are Jesus. Heard that we have the experience now and it's going to grow and become even more defined. So it's about growth. But that's not it. There's another part. Second part is the parable of the yeast. Luke 13:20 through 21 again. He Jesus asked. What shall I compare the Kingdom of God to? It's like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about 60 pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough. So Jesus compares the Kingdom to yeast often in the Bible, yeast is used negatively just in the previous chapter of Luke Luke 12, Jesus warns about the yeast of the Pharisees and their hypocrisy, how it can spread, and it can be detrimental and. Bad this time he uses it very positively, he says. Take just a little bit of yeast, right, and mix it. And is 60 pounds of flour. That's a lot, and it's going to feed a whole bunch of people. He's like that little bit of yeast. It starts working and it transforms the whole dough. It's small, just like that seed. And maybe the yeast seems insignificant in the recipe, but it works from the inside, starts inside and it spreads and it wants to work its way through the dough to make something great. Maybe you have noticed you have little treats on your table that I've made. These are cinnamon rolls, pieces of cinnamon rolls that I made. You're welcome to eat them at anytime if you don't want to eat them, you don't. But cinnamon rolls have to puff up and become fluffy. Alright, now here's the pictures of me being a goon on this first side. That's the dough mix here. The yeast is in there, but. It hasn't risen yet. The dough hasn't had a chance to rise. The yeast hasn't does a thing over there is me in amazement. It rose after a couple hours in a nice warm place. Nobody wants a flat, dense cinnamon roll. I mean, I don't. Maybe you do, but I don't. Right. This little package of yeast that's about this big mix into the whole dough helps it rise and it takes time. It takes a little effort, but eventually it spreads and it puffs up and it rises into something delicious. The focus is that that yeast transforms the dough, makes it fluffy, not flat. We don't want to be flat dough followers of Jesus. We want to be fluffy. Cinnamon roll everything good. Followers of Jesus put the frosting on there. Fluffy delicious cinnamon roll followers of Jesus that's better than the flat dough one we want that yeast to work through us. The key here is this. Be willing to transform. We have to. Be willing to be transformed by Jesus if we're insistent on just being the way we are. It doesn't work if we're just hardened and unwilling to be broken down by. Take a dough and try to pour the yeast on top and I'm unwilling to kind of break it down and mix it in. It's not going to do anything. Right. The yeast won't break in that way. We have to let. Jesus inside to do his thing, whether we're open right now for it or feel a little hardened, we have to allow him to break down and work in us. Be willing to see what he has, even if it's different from what you thought he might want you to do, or turn you into. It might be totally different. It might be scary, it might be crazy, I don't know. But the idea is to have the willingness to let God transform you. That's like kind of having a Kingdom focused heart, right? We're focused on allowing ourselves to be transformed. Same thing with the church being a Kingdom focused church, allowing God to transform what we do as a church. We always want to be looking at it. Is there some way that God's trying to transform us as a group to live out what

he's called us to be? We'll talk about it and if there's something God really wants us to do differently than we would try it. But the point is a willingness to change from the inside. And that started when Jesus came. He started this transformation and it's different than the way the Pharisees saw, saw things. They needed to transform. They didn't think they did. We want to be willing to continually transform. And transformation fully comes. When Jesus returns and we're all with him for eternity, then we're fully with him and changed how he wants us. So the Kingdom, it starts small and it grows into something strong and big, welcoming and safe and. Full of hope. It also spreads from within and transforms us into what God wants us to be, and the scenario Jesus in at the beginning of this passage shows that we're in a circle back. Really quick, think about what Jesus did with this woman. He healed one person. There may have been others in that synagogue that needed to be healed. I don't know why he didn't heal him, but he looked at one woman and healed her. Started really small with one person, but that's kind of that seed that's planted. People see that. People hear him talk and it starts to grow. One thing seeing one person starting small heels and it spreads. And I know that there are times when people are healed today and there are times when people aren't healed from things that's going on. I don't know why not everyone is healed today, but I do know this that when Jesus's Kingdom is fully realized when he comes back, all the healing is done and the pain and the hurt goes away. There is hope that these things are to come, so that Kingdom has started. And it's continuing, it's still to come. So as we think about this week as as we head into a week where maybe some of you will see friends and family for the holiday or anything like that, just be willing to see people see people the way Jesus saw them like he saw the woman who needed something be in relationship with people, be aware of the good and the not good in their lives. The mustard seed and what it grows into. It starts small, and that's OK. It's OK that it's small, but it will grow into something big and strong that provides that comfort, security and hope. That's what the Kingdom of God is like. Let Jesus grow you in that way and see his Kingdom in that way, and then the same with the yeast, how it transforms from. The inside out. Let Jesus and the Kingdom transform us. Right. If we. Let it do that and we're willing to let it transform us. It will change us for the better with Jesus. It's always better. So let's take joy in that Kingdom that's already come and have hope in the Kingdom that is still to come. With Jesus, let's pray. Got to thank you for. This morning I thank you that Jesus came and ushered in his Kingdom. God, that it's here and it's it's starting. And God, I thank you that that he explains it in this way. That it's small, but it's going to grow. And God, that that it's changing us from the inside out, that it's going to transform our lives and our spirits. God, I pray that. We just have. A willingness to. Let that happen. A willingness to grow, willingness to transform. And God, I pray that we would have the eyes to see others around us, just like Jesus did with this woman. So, God, I pray that we. Would just also take down any. Any like ideas that we've had? About you and about the Kingdom. And we would just get to know you kind of how Jesus is describing. Here that we would just break down into those walls and get to know you get to know your Kingdom and get to know your teaching. We thank you again for meeting us here. Your name?