

The Expansion and Establishment of the Kingdom Luke 13:10-21

Jesus initiates a miraculous healing despite the indignation of the religious elite. (vv. 10-17)

Luke 13:10 Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. 11 And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. 12 When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your disability." 13 And he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God. 14 But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." 15 Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to water it? 16 And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day? 17 As he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame, and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

This single healing foreshadows the full expansion and establishment of the kingdom of God. (vv. 18-21)

1. The kingdom continues to expand to fullness.

Luke 13:18 He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? **19** It is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches."

2. The kingdom continues to be established to maturity.

Luke 13:20 And again he said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? **21** It is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened."

God promised the expansion and establishment of his kingdom.

Jer. 31:33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Dan. 2:34 As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. **35** ...But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Is. 49:6 he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

That promise of the kingdom's expansion and establishment is fulfilled in Jesus and his church.

Acts 17:30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, **31** because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Acts 11:17 If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" **18** When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

Reflection/Discussion

- 1. Re-read Luke 13:10-17. How does this single episode demonstrate the character and purposes of God in bringing his kingdom through Jesus?
- 2. Reflect on your own life with Jesus considering examples of how:
 - the kingdom has expanded to you (personal testimony)
 - the kingdom further establishes itself in you (personal growth)
 - God uses you to further expand and establish his kingdom. (personal fruitfulness)
- 3. How is Jesus' kingdom shaping the way you see yourself and others on a daily basis?

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