

Luke 13.1-30

Why Not Me?

How can we UNDERSTAND – Terrible Events, Tragedies in the World Around Since March 5 Schools in China Knife Attacks - 17 Died & 100 Wounded – Kids! Atrocities: Sept 11, 2001 > AIRPLANES became AERIAL Missiles into Buildings Accidents: Dec 26, 2004 > WAVE became Wall of Death – Indonesia to AFRICA

1. The Providence of God: *Unreadable*

Ch 13 - 2 TRAGIC Events - UNKNOWN from any Other HISTORICAL SOURCE

a. Atrocities – TERRIBLE Act of MAN // Shooting in a CHURCH SERVICE

v. 1 Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.

PILATE'S Soldiers CUT DOWN Worshippers giving their Sacrifices to God

CRUELTY OF ROMAN Governor PILATE IS WELL DOCUMENTED

The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. *He will cut him to pieces...* Luke 12.46

CUT to PIECES > Hey! Did you HEAR ABOUT those Galileans... YOUR Home!

Was Jesus PRO-ROMAN or PRO-REVOLUTION?

Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose him fiercely and to besiege him with questions, waiting to catch him in something he might say. Luke 11.53,54

Would EXPOSE his POLITICAL OPINIONS in Comments on Current Events

With Answer > Either TURN ROMANS or the PEOPLE AGAINST Jesus

b. Accidents – TRAGIC Events of NATURE, Mother Nature? Father God?

v. 4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—

Part of OLD WALL of Jerusalem FELL & KILLED on 18 Innocent Bystanders –
People eager to talk about troubles of others – Hope NEVER HAPPEN TO THEM

WORSE SINNERS in Galilee or Judea? GOD More ANGRY with GALILEANS?
RIVALRY between COWBOY GALILEANS and CITY-SLICKERS of Jerusalem
TRAGIC Events expose MORTALITY > END a Life of Promise and Potential

c. Answers...? – Whole World is ASKING WHY Such EVIL OCCURS?

1) Man's Problem Modern MANTRA: "What GOES Around, COMES Around!"
TRAGEDY CONNECTED to LIVES they LIVED? > Extremely BAD KARMA?
EVEN Jesus DISCIPLES held this COMMONLY BELIEVED Opinion

His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" John 9:2

Book of JOB – Long Speeches of "HIS COMFORTERS" – who needs Enemies??
Eliphaz the Temanite replied: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed? As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it. Job 4.7,8

That Jesus of Nazareth, Lord and Christ of God, suffered at the hands of lawless men should have buried forever the connection that argues that those who suffer are the worst of sinners. But it has not. Fred Craddock

2) God's Problem – Gotta be SOMEBODY'S Problem, If Not Man, then God...
LUKE's Time > People BLAME MAN // TODAY > People BLAME GOD
WHERE is God in all That? IS there even a God? If so, must be BAD GOD?

Job: "As surely as God lives, who has denied me justice, the Almighty, who has made me taste bitterness of soul...I will maintain my righteousness and never let go of it..." Job 27.1-6

OVER 30 Chapters of BLAMING – Attacking GOD and MAN...God > Enough!

God gives JOB an 80 Question POP BIOLOGY Test

Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said: "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!..."

Job 38.1-5

JOB Cannot get ONE RIGHT Answer > SHOCKED by God, Swallows PENCIL

Then Job answered the LORD: "I am unworthy--how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. I spoke once, but I have no answer-- twice, but I will say no more." Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm: "Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me."Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself? Do you have an arm like God's, and can your voice thunder like his? Then adorn yourself with glory and splendor, and clothe yourself in honor and majesty. Unleash the fury of your wrath, look at every proud man and bring him low, look at every proud man and humble him, crush the wicked where they stand. Bury them all in the dust together; shroud their faces in the grave. Then I myself will admit to you that your own right hand can save you.

Job 40.3-

14

JOB > See-Saw THEOLOGY > BLAME God > Man UP / GOD must be DOWN

Over 30 Chapters > Job & Friends ask Challenging Questions > Accusations

Book Ends GOD ASKING Questions – Job's HAND over his MOUTH

God NOT Obligated to Answer – He is Lord, Creator, Sovereign, He is GOOD!

See-Saw is RIGHTLY RESTORED > God is UP / MAN MUST be DOWN

3) Not Problems but Providence

vs. 2,4 Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way?...do you think they (*the eighteen who died*) were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem?

Jesus never mentions SPECIFIC Sins > UNCONTESTED FACT > ALL GUILTY

Jesus to his LISTENERS > You have ESCAPED a SIMILAR FATE

NOT because of your GOODNESS but because of GOD'S Present MERCY

Another word for God's Present Mercy > PROVIDENCE

Heidelberg Catechism Question 27: What do you understand by the providence of God?

Answer: God's providence is His almighty and ever present power, whereby, as with His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things, come not by chance but by His fatherly hand.

Heidelberg Catechism Question 28: What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things and still upholds them by His providence?

Answer: We can be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and with a view to the future we can have a firm confidence in our faithful God and Father that no creature shall separate us from His love; for all creatures are so completely in His hand that without His will they cannot so much as move.

WE CANNOT INTERPRET PROVIDENCE, WE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

Deuteronomy 29:29

SECRET Things: Walls Falling, Planes Crashing, Waves Smashing – Unknown?

REVEALED: God is Good, All the Time – Perfectly Just, Holy, Righteous, Kind

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

Micah 7:18

2. The Patience of God: *Unending?....No!*

Jews: "God MUST give REASON!" for WAVES that Wipe Out $\frac{1}{4}$ Million SOULS

Jesus changes 'R'- WORD > "YOU MUST Give God REPENTANCE!"

Luke says MORE about REPENTANCE than any Other NT Writer

SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH DEMANDS REPENTANCE

There are three elements of true repentance: confession, contrition, and change... Confession is the intellectual aspect of repentance: we know in our minds we have sinned. Contrition is the emotional aspect of repentance: we feel in our hearts that we have sinned. Change is the volitional aspect of repentance: we resolve in our wills that we will sin no more. All three aspects are essential for our repentance to be genuine.

Philip Ryken

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a. God's Patience Tested Sorely by the Sons of Israel

SELF CONFIDENCE OF JEWS - NO TRUE BASIS – No Fruit = No Faith

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance..."

Luke 3:7-8

FIG TREE – Symbol of Nation of Israel – Every OPPORTUNITY to be Fruitful

Prophets – Scriptures – Priesthood – Sacrifices – Covenants > NOW Messiah

I am like one who gathers summer fruit at the gleaning of the vineyard; there is... none of the early figs that I crave. The godly have been swept from the land; not one upright man remains.

Micah 7:1,2

Matthew and Mark > CLUSTER Parables into Several Chapters

Luke puts PARABLE in TEACHING Section to ILLUSTRATE the Teaching Point Material in our Section is FOUND in SIX Different Chapters in Matthew's Gospel

vs. 6,7 Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

PICTURE of God's PATIENCE – STAY of Execution for FRUITLESS Tree

vs. 8-10 "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'" On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues...

Scene Shift: Fig Tree to GATHERING of FIGS – Synagogue – GOD'S PEOPLE
FOURTH and FINAL time Luke's SHOWS Jesus IN a Synagogue

v. 14 Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath."

Ruler's SABBATH was DEAD TRADITION > REBUKES People who Need Help
AFRAID to CONFRONT Jesus > Says the CHOSEN should REMAIN FROZEN!
If CRIPPLED Woman came NEXT DAY, what could HE DO for HER??
Jesus NOT Afraid to CONFRONT this Bottleneck to God's BLESSINGS

AT THIS Point Luke calls Jesus LORD: vs. 15,16 The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie his 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?"

Woman LIKE Animal > TIED Up by JEWISH Man-made Sabbath Laws

If you can loose the bonds of an animal on the Sabbath, how much more necessary is it for God to loose his daughter bound by Satan for 18 years on the Sabbath?

SABBATH > Day of CELEBRATION and JOY in the Lord

NO Better Day & Place to DEMONSTRATE God's LIBERATING Grace for
the DAUGHTERS and SONS of Abraham
Jesus came to SET THE CAPTIVES FREE

v. 17 When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

JEWISH Leaders were SHAMED, JOYFUL Followers were SHOUTING Praises!

UNDERCURRENT of Entire Section Luke: CONFLICT – Going to JERUSALEM

v. 22 Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem...

b. God's Patience Truly Seen in Daughter of Abraham

Luke FREELY Uses Image of GOOD WOMAN as Picture of our PATIENT GOD

vs. 11 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.

18 yrs of AFFLICTION, PAIN: WORSHIPPING in the Synagogue FAITHFULLY

SHAMED by her CONTORTED Appearance / IGNORED by Most People

Woman NOT ASK – Expressed NO FAITH in Jesus – DIVINE INITIATIVE

vs. 12,13 When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

c. God's Patience has a Limit

v. 9 ...If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down."

Never KNOW WHEN – Pilate will Kill – Walls will Fall – Plane's will Crash

God's PROVIDENCE is PATIENTLY Moving Toward an END > FINAL Day

v. 23 Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?"

Jewish EXPECTATION > ONLY Jews could be SAVED > Israel was Blessed Few

v. 28 "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.

Soon DOOR of Gospel OPPORTUNITY is CLOSED will be Closed FOREVER

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace--but now it is hidden from your eyes.... Luke 19.41-44

Evangelist George Whitefield sailed from England to America

Spoke with ship's cook about his continual drunkenness

Will be WICKED UNTIL LAST 2 years of Life - then STOP – 6 hrs LATER DIED

3. The Purpose of God: *Unseen (sometimes), Unstoppable (always)*

a. Severity and Mercy

One Moment Jesus EXTENDS HAND of KINDNESS > HEALS Crippled Woman

HUGE SURPRISE to see a RABBI Touch a CRIPPLE

NEXT Moment > Calls Synagogue Ruler & Followers HYPOCRITES!

ONE Year FIG Tree is TENDED Carefully > NEXT Year it will be TORN DOWN

One Moment Jesus predicts WEEPING & Gnashing of Teeth > He Weeps for Them

DOUBLE Mortification for JEWS – They're Excluded / Gentiles INCLUDED

Luke does not destroy severity by infusing grace, nor does he destroy grace by infusing severity. As a theologian he knows that any mixing of severity and grace or any attempt to average them will result in that which is neither severity nor grace.

Fred Craddock

Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. Romans 11.22

Some people do not like to hear much about repentance. But I think it is so necessary that if I should die in the pulpit, I should desire to die preaching repentance, and if I should die out of the pulpit, I should desire to die practicing it

Phillip

Henry

b. Extensive and Intensive – HOW does KINGDOM of God GROW?

TYPICAL for Luke to Give PAIR of Parables > Focus on Man and a Woman

FIRST Parable comes from FARM > TINIEST Seed sown by Farmer in ISRAEL

vs. 18,19 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 of the air perched in its branches."

SEED – Diameter 1 millimeter > TREE – Over THREE Meters Tall

BRANCHES – Offer SECURE Home to BIRDS of ALL Nations

...the trees of the field; its boughs increased and its branches grew long, spreading because of abundant waters. All the birds of the air nested in its boughs...all the great nations lived in its shade.

Ezekiel 31.5,6

SECOND Parable comes from KITCHEN > Daily Routine of Baking Bread

Leaven from OLD Batch of Bread > Kneaded Invisibly into New Bread Dough

vs. 20,21 Again he asked, "What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

1) From a Small and Seemingly Insignificant Beginning

CREATED Human Race thru ONE MAN – ADAM

COVENANT began with ONE MAN – ABRAHAM

KINGDOM commenced with ONE MAN – DAVID

NEW COVENANT & KINGDOM of God – through the MAN Christ JESUS

GOD becomes Helpless Babe – Abandoned to Cross – Buried in TOMB

ALL His FOLLOWERS RAN Away

A woman bound by Satan has just been loosed; not a major, earth-shaking event, but in that single act is the beginning of the reign of God in the world and the beginning of the end of Satan's destructive power. Fred Craddock

2) The Kingdom of God Grows

LEAVEN in Bible is SOMETIMES a Bad Thing > NOT Always, NOT Here
 DANGER of Word Studies > WORDS in Bible are DEFINED by CONTEXT
 Point > NOT Speed of Growth – Slow or Fast – POINT it IS GROWING!

3) At Times Invisibly and almost Imperceptibly

Grows behind CLOSED Doors when a SINNER Kneels to Receive Jesus by Faith
 Grows in HEARTS when Child asks Jesus in to Live There
 Grows in HOMES when Fathers take Leadership Responsibility Seriously
 Grows behind BARS When PRISONERS are truly PENITENT
 Grows in HARD, REMOTE Places when His Servants take Good News there

4) Until it Reaches all Nations

Jesus' teaching about the future triumph of the kingdom has nothing to do with the secular philosophy of progress in history or the idea that the kingdom will gradually Christianize the world through human efforts or organization. The kingdom is spiritual and mighty through God... Douglas Milne

By 3rd Century – Thriving Churches in Every Province of Vast Roman Empire
 Like Birds flocking to Mighty Tree > Nations were Coming to Christ
 Paul took Gospel to Europe – Americas, Asia, Africa, and Australia
 Today – Church of Jesus Christ gathers in EVERY Nation of World Today
 Servants – Penetrating those Nations – Every People Group, Tribe, Religion

Do NOT be DISCOURAGED > Seed & Leaven carry their FUTURE IN THEM
We're PART of SMALL Acts of God > IMPACT Far BEYOND this Time & Place

c. Exclusive and Inclusive

Today USA more than 1000 Organized RELIGIONS – Beliefs, View of God
GREAT News is they're ALL Coming to your Town and Village SOON!
MOST of America says DOES NOT MATTER all END at SAME PLACE
I'm a Buddhist, I'm a Muslim, I'm a Christian. I'm whatever you want me to be ...
it all comes down to the same thing. Jim Carrey

Personally, I am trusting Jesus Christ as my means of gaining God's permanent favor and a place in heaven – but someone else could get to heaven based upon living an exemplary life. A Christian quoted in the *Wall Street Journal*

Jesus says ONE DOOR and ONE LIFE to FIND and ENTER
v. 24 "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.

HE Himself is DOOR > Only HE has DONE what is NEEDED to Take Us to God

Family Wedding in UTAH – Suspected would be MORMON Wedding – NOT!
EPISCOPAL Church – Wedding Vows taken out of Book of Common Prayer
Presbyterian Family – Friendly Chat at Reception – Learned was M in KZ
LOUD Voice – All Heads Turned: “I hope your not one of those that says every
needs to believe in Jesus or they’re going to hell!” --- YOU got THAT RIGHT!

You go to DOCTOR: Scibble NAME of ANY Medicine on Prescription PAD
Pharmacist CAN'T Read It – And Besides ALL Medicines are the SAME

FLY back Home to Ohio on ANY Plane Leaving Airport > ALL Go Same Place
 As FLY Home tell him to LAND Plane Anywhere NEAR House – Does Not Matter

NO! Only Right Medicine – Only Fly on Plane going My Way – Land on Runway
 Wow! That is very NARROW MINDED of You! Aren't they ALL the SAME!?

"All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." Luke 10.22

Christian Faith is BOTH – EXCLUSIVE One Way and INCLUSIVE All People
 Salvation is PICTURED as INTERNATIONAL BANQUET – Endless Joy

vs. 29,30 People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last."

In one sense Christianity is the most exclusive of religions...only one narrow way of salvation...in another sense, Christianity is the most inclusive of all religions. It is not just for people from a particular ethnic background....for people who are able to obey God better than others, or who have reached a certain level of enlightenment... You just have to be a sinner who is praying for God to give you grace in Jesus Christ. Philip Ryken

d. Plan and a Passion

vs. 28-30 Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God... People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last."

Jesus is NOT Saying there is NO CONNECTION between SIN & SUFFERING
 FALLEN WORLD - EFFECTS OF SIN TOUCH ALL PEOPLE

The fact that evil is not punished here and now does not mean that God approves of what sinners are doing; it means that to the end God is merciful. Leon Morris

After September 11, 2001 > Preachers “God had nothing to do with that event!”

Trying to COMFORT – Think it Thru – If TRUE there is NO COMFORT at All
SomeONE, Some FORCE, POWER, SPIRIT, BEING > STRONGER than God
God of Bible is NOT SOVEREIGN and then Could NOT be SAVING

Jesus is NOT Saying GOD has NO HAND in ATROCITIES & ACCIDENTS

Word ‘SOVEREIGN’ Means God is in FULL CONTROL – He has PLAN

The LORD works out everything for his own ends-- even the wicked for a day of disaster. Proverbs 16.4

REASON for SUFFERING NOT Found in LOOKING BACK to GUESS the Cause
but to look forward in hope and trust in God's glory

Jesus turns QUESTION into a COMMAND > Not Speculation but a SUMMONS
God has PLAN but we must have a PASSION ---

vs. 2-5 Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? *I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.* Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them--do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? *I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.*"

Jesus Never Answers Hypothetical Questions > Focus: What people must Do Now
When calamity strikes ask, what lesson is in this for me?

v. 24 "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.

STRIVE > Word from Athletic Games > Root Word for AGONIZE

NO Half-Hearted Effort will get you thru DOORWAY of KINGDOM of God

vs. 25-28 Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' "But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' "But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!' "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.

One of the agonies of hell will be the remembrance of opportunities wasted.

Warren Wiersbe

Jesus was AROUND – Saw Him in Streets, even HEARD Him – Never Decided
Never Sensed an URGENCY – He was NEAR and WILL BE ALWAYS!

Sharp DISCRIMINATION > Names People NOT There – A,I,&J & PROPHETS
NEVER Mentions NAMES of People Right There – God does Not KNOW Them
Then when they NEEDED Him – He was GONE – and the Door was CLOSED!

Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD.
Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?...For I take no
pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

Ezekiel 18:23,32

Luke 13

1. Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.
2. Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way?
3. I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.
4. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them--do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem?
5. I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."
6. Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any.
7. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'
8. "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it.
9. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"
10. On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues,
FOURTH and FINAL time Luke's SHOWS Jesus IN a Synagogue
NO Ref to TIME or PLACE > JOURNEY's Focus is on TEACHING Disciples

11. 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.
1st Miracle since Chapter 11 > ONE OF LAST Miracles in Gospel of LUKE
Woman NOT ASK – Expressed NO FAITH in Jesus – DIVINE INITIATIVE
18 yrs of AFFLICTION, PAIN: WORSHIPPING in the Synagogue FAITHFULLY
REWARD of her FAITHFULNESS in ADVERSITY > Healing, Blessing, Life
12. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity."
13. Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.
14. Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath."
15. The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water?"

16. 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?"

SABBATH > Day of CELEBRATION and JOY in the Lord
NO Better Day and Place to DEMONSTRATE God's LIBERATING Grace for the DAUGHTERS and SONS of Abraham

17. When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.
JEWISH Leaders were SHAMED, JOYFUL Followers were SHOUTING Praises!

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

19. It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches."

20. Again he asked, "What shall I compare the kingdom of God to?

21. It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

22. Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem.

23. Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them,

24. "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.

25. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' "But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'

26. "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'

27. "But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'

28. "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.

29. People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

30. Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last."