

## Three Short Parables Concerning the Kingdom's Advance

**Luke 13:6-9; 17-20**

Luke the historian is supremely concerned with the growth and expanse of the "kingdom of God." His 2<sup>nd</sup> volume, which we know as the Book of Acts, details for us the movement of the Gospel throughout the Roman Empire. Luke records for us these three short parables of Jesus, which all relate in some way to the Gospel and Kingdom growth.

**The context** is found in verses 1-5 (Jesus responding to current news events with a message of repentance) and verses 10-17 (Jesus' confrontation concerning healing on the Sabbath and the people's joy over His works).

- **Parable #1 – A \_\_\_\_\_ Fig Tree. (6-9)** Jesus again uses the elements that the people of His day could easily understand, a fig tree planted in a vineyard. They all probably knew the reality of having a barren tree or an unproductive vine.

**Two main truths can be seen in this simple parable:**

- (1) **Fruitfulness is \_\_\_\_\_.** The man that planted the fig tree took great care to place it in his vineyard where it had every opportunity to produce fruit. He had every right to expect fruit for his efforts!
  - (2) **Patience is \_\_\_\_\_.** The vineyard worker asked for one more year of patience so he could dig around it and fertilize it. It is however, an open-ended parable. Jesus does not disclose the end results of his patience.
- **Parable #2 – A \_\_\_\_\_ Seed. (18-19)** Again, Jesus uses an agricultural illustration to reveal a glorious truth concerning His kingdom. The mustard seed is the smallest of seeds, yet it grows into a large bush-tree, large enough for the birds to find a resting place on its branches.

**One main truth: The Kingdom may appear small and insignificant at its beginning, but it will grow into a Kingdom that fills the earth, encompassing people from every nation, tribe, and tongue.**

- **Parable #3 – A \_\_\_\_\_ of Yeast. (20)** Jesus moves from the outside to the inside, from the field to the kitchen. The significance of the parable does the same, moving us from the external expanse of the Gospel to the inward permeation of the heart of the believer.

**One main truth: Once the Gospel has found a lodging place in the heart, it does not stop until it transforms every part of the believer's life.**

**Personal Application:**

- ✓ **Have you personally believed the Gospel for your salvation?**
- ✓ **Are you seeing evidence that the Gospel is changing every area of your life?**
- ✓ **Are you Kingdom-focused and bearing fruit, or focused on yourself?**
- ✓ **Do you rejoice in and participate in the expanse of God's Kingdom?**