



## SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Luke, Part 40: Mustard Seeds and Narrow Doors - Luke 13:10-35 - August 24, 2025

### SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - Dark Matter and an infinite number of doorways to parallel universes. How many doors are there, and how do you find the correct one?

#### A. A Woman Gets Well (Luke 13:10-13)

The woman is not demon-possessed (no demon is cast out), but the text makes it clear that her ailment is both physical and spiritual (v. 11).

She comes to church despite her pain, and Jesus sees her and “she was made straight” (v. 13)

The word ἀνωρθώθη (*anorthothē*), from “*orthos*” meaning “to straighten or raise”.

Used in the physical and spiritual sense in the New Testament.

#### B. A Pastor Gets Mad (Luke 13:14-17)

The synagogue leaders are more concerned with Sabbath laws than people being restored. Jesus criticizes them for their hypocrisy - they would help animals before people!

**Illustration:** building taller and tighter fences until a yard of freedom is a prison of rules.

“A daughter of Abraham” (v. 16) means she is part of the body to care for (see: 1 Cor 12:26)

**Illustration:** difficult decisions on Easter Sunday with immigration stories - if we refuse to help our brothers and sisters in the name of maintaining the brand, then woe to us.

#### C. A Kingdom Gets Bigger (Luke 13:18-21)

The metaphor is more about **contrast** than **expansion**. Jesus wants the Jews to see that something significantly bigger than Israel is going on.

In essence: **the mustard seed & leaven lump = Israel** // **the tree & bread = Gentile nations**

The whole world needs the orthopedic restoration of Jesus Christ!

#### D. A Door Gets Revealed (Luke 13:22-30)

A question: Lord, will those who are saved be few? (v. 23)

The meta narrative of the Bible contains the separation of mankind from God as sinners choose death instead of life.

That separation is illustrated by a “narrow door” (v. 24) that many look for but few find.

**Illustration:** the myriad number of “**doors**” we think will bring us life and peace.

How can anyone find the right door? (Hint: John 10:9)

The door is exclusive (v. 24-28) - even people searching will be left out

The door is inclusive (v. 29-30) - people from every part of history will find entry

**Illustration:** “*first v. last*” - the extravagance of American churches versus the meager and modest assemblies around the world.

An answer to the question in v. 23: **Less than you think & more than you can imagine.**

#### E. A City Gets Criticized (Luke 13:31-35)

Jesus is warned that Herod wants to kill him. (v. 31)

He is not worried because he knows that he is on his way to his death regardless - and his death will happen at the hands of his own people in the very capital city of Jerusalem, the site of the murder of many prophets who preceded him.

Jesus came to provide loving care like a mother, and yet his “*brood*” will seek to kill him!

Will a remnant proclaim: “*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*” (v. 35)??



## **SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. Why is it important to see the human person as a combination of physical and spiritual? How does Jesus' treatment of the woman in v. 11-13 teach us about the connection between spirit and body?
2. What are the traditions and prejudices that modern Christians are tempted to cling to even at the detriment of the well-being of others? How can our rules turn a yard into a prison?
3. What is the mustard seed & leaven illustration really about? How would the Jewish elite have received this teaching?
4. Josh listed several "doors" that we are tempted to walk through in our search for life and peace - have you tried those doors? What other "doors" out there tempt us?
5. If it is true that we American Christians are closer to "first" than "last", what can we do to make sure that we are still walking through the narrow door?
6. Why is Jesus so concerned about Jerusalem? How can we make sure that he would not say something similar to v. 34 to us?