

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"THE HEART AND HEARTBREAK OF JESUS' KINGDOM" | LUKE 13: 18-35 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

Time-change is this weekend. If you were in charge, would you keep daylight savings or not? Why?

"A Growing and Expanding Kingdom" (Luke 13: 18-21)

Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard plant, which starts tiny yet grows so large many birds can sit on it, showing many can be part of God's people. **What are ways we see God's kingdom growing today? Why is it hard to see that sometimes?**

"A One-Door Kingdom" (Luke 13: 22-30)

Jesus warns the people that the door to salvation is narrow and many who think they are saved will miss it, showing Jews they can't expect their Jewish heritage to save them. **What are things today that give many a false sense of security?**

"Missing the Kingdom" (Luke 13: 31-35)

Jesus is heartbroken as he talks about the rejection he has in Jerusalem because it shows how there are so many lost. **What does that show about Jesus? How does Jesus' heartbreak for the lost affect you?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus gives the people a warning and a wake-up call about entering God's kingdom, and shares that people from all parts of the world will be a part of it. **Are there people you've given up on becoming Jesus followers? Have you assumed that some could never join God's kingdom? Pray and ask God to give you hope and courage in sharing the gospel.**

The Heart & Heartbreak of Jesus' Kingdom

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-7 Kel: Month Giving. Harvest Fst. REAL. Hiring. Pstr App (2).
- B. Slide8 Harvest Crusade: This weekend Nov.4,5. *Opp to serve: Decision Follow up. Security. Prayer Room. Usher. Assist Team. Set up/Tear down.* events.harvest.org
- C. Slide9-12 Trip Update: Nepal - Opened a Company/to purchase property there for our RO people group. SE Asia Conf - for those working w/Roh (70).
- D. Prayer: Elections (expose the truth). Graciously give us the leaders we need, not those we deserve.

II. Slide13 Intro: The Heart & Heartbreak of Jesus' Kingdom

- A. We continue with **Kingdom** parables & teachings. [TY to Cam, Dominic, Dan]
 1. Jesus's **Kingdom** refers to *The Kingly rule of God, in the hearts and lives of people of faith. As it begins with the individual it will reach a future climax when He returns.*
 2. God's Kingdom is at work in this world **but** you must take advantage of its **opportunities**. Like not just *asking questions* about his kingdom, **but** actually *entering* His kingdom. Wiersbe said, *Salvation is not a theory to discuss, it is a miracle to experience.*
- B. **Outline:** *A Growing & Expanding Kingdom. A One-Door Kingdom. Missing the Kingdom.*

III. Slide14 A GROWING AND EXPANDING KINGDOM (18-21) READ

- A. Slide15 MUSTARD SEED (18,19)
 1. Yes, many times in scripture **birds** and **yeast** represent evil in the church **or** in His kingdom. **But not always.**
 2. I believe this is pointing to *the growth of his kingdom* because of the concern of its *humble beginnings*. (smallest of seeds **to** a 10' high shrub)

a) The kingdoms influence extends to encompass many (relative term).

3. Ezek. 17:22b,23 *I will take a branch from the top of a tall cedar, and I will plant it on the top of Israel's highest mountain. 23 It will become a majestic cedar, sending forth its branches and producing seed. Birds of every sort* (gentiles in context) *will nest in it, finding shelter in the shade of its branches.*

B. LEAVEN (20,21)

1. *His Kingdom will spread to all nations, it will permeate all cultures, it will infiltrate Satan's very kingdom ... like yeast to dough.*
2. Once again we hear of *God's heart for missions.*

IV. Slide 16 **A ONE-DOOR KINGDOM (22-30) READ**

A. *Is salvation for many or a few?* Jesus doesn't answer *how many* will be saved, but reminds them *to be certain you are saved.*

1. Do you care about *the number*, or that if you're *in the number*.
2. Or, we can say it this way, *don't worry about the few, you worry about you.*

B. *Strive to enter* - to agonize as an athlete or to fight or struggle in war. No not saved by our hard work, rather it warns us to avoid *an easy, complacent, & theoretical attitude toward the eternal destiny of the soul.*

1. Fight or be at war with ... *not who, but what. Be at war with sin, especially our own sin.*

C. Slide 17 [1] *The Door is Open but it is Narrow* (24) [4 points]

1. Let's not picture a **big wall** with **1 opening** in it. Let's Picture a **line** where you can **crossover anywhere** and **1 door** placed on that line.
 - a) *Illustration:* At my daughter Mical & Tyler's reception, they rented **an old wooden doorway** that signified the proper entrance to the area where everyone was to be seated.

2. Or I picture in Haiti many homes have a living fence, goats with 3 sticks around neck jutting out, so wouldn't escape the yard. (narrow way)
3. Saved/sozo (from demons, healed, forgiveness of sin). Made whole, inferring ... **we're all broken people**.
 - a) Humpty Dumpty was spot on. We are all **fallen** people, and only **The King** can **make us whole again**.
4. Jesus uses the word **narrow** to **crush the false narrative** ... that all paths lead to God. [**Your narrowminded** is used of us Christians in the **neg**]
 - a) **But open-minded** isn't always a good thing. **Do you want your pilot to be open minded?**
 - b) Hello ladies and gentlemen, this is your Captain speaking: *We are ready to make our dissent now, we've been cleared to land on **runway 1**. But I feel a little open-minded today. I'm feeling a little risky and frisky, we're gonna go for **runway 3**, so buckle up and enjoy the ride!* [**surgeon** to be open minded?]
5. **Narrow** simply means **limited in scope**. I'm not upset that Jesus made **a narrow way**, I'm just glad **He made a way!**

D. **Slide18 [2] The Door will Not Stay Open Forever (25-27)**

1. Oh, it's open enrollment right now, **but** it's not forever. **There is that ultimate day, but** understand, each of us have **an appointed day**.
2. The **many** are those who try to enter **once the door is closed**. They missed their opportunity.
3. Yes, it's **a narrow door**, **but will you be among the saved?**

E. **Slide19 [3] The Door is Open to All (29,30)**

1. People coming from the 4 points of the compass.
2. **Salvation does not discriminate**. It's not just for the Jews, **but** gentiles.

a) *From every nation, tribe, people, and tongue*. Nations (ethnic groupings, people groups). Tribes (social division of people). Peoples (people grouped by culture, physical, or geographical ties). Tongues (language).

(1) Collectively these *unreached groups* number nearly **3 billion souls**.

(2) And among these people groups, Jesus remains *unknown, unacknowledged, and unadored*. :(

F. Slide20 [4] The Door is JESUS [Jn.10:9 *I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture*]

1. The *uniqueness of Christianity* is rooted in *the uniqueness of Jesus Himself*.

a) Some religious leaders have said, *follow me and I will show you the way*, but Jesus shows up and says, *I am the way*.

b) Some religious leaders have said, *follow me and I will show you the truth*, but Jesus shows up and says, *I am the truth*.

c) Some religious leaders have said, *follow me and I will show you the life*, but Jesus shows up and says, *I am the life*.

2. I don't know where you came from (or, I do not *know you, where you are from*). It's a personal relationship issue. Being *saved* is about *knowing Him*, or *not*.

a) *Inadequate grounds* are standing on, *I go to bible studies and even partake in communion*. (26) [it's *origin*, not just association]

3. Those who think that they're *1st*, like the Pharisees (because of their *physical birth and religiosity*) will be *last*. And those who think they are *last*, like the tax collector (who said, *God be merciful to me a sinner*) will be *1st*.

V. Slide21 MISSING THE KINGDOM (31-35) READ

A. The Pharisees didn't care if Jesus lived or died, so I think what's happening here is they're playing the game, *find His weakness*, let's see if he's afraid to die.

1. Oh, *Herod wants to kill me*. Oh, I will die, but **not** by Herod, and **not** outside of Jerusalem. **And** I will **not** die a **victim** but a **Victor**.

a) *No one takes my life from me, but I'd lay it down of myself* (Jn.10:18).

B. (33) **I must go on my way**/journey (same as 22) -

1. Explain what I shared at the *Networking Conf* on Lk.24.

2. **Jesus' journey led him to Jerusalem**, yours also is to **your cross**. It's a road to travel down to *come and die*/*Bonhoeffer* (die to self, die to flesh, die to your will being done).

C. The last 2 verses listen to *the heart of God*, listen to *the heart-break-of God*

1. They are **not willing** to be *gathered into His Kingdom*.

2. They are **refusing the narrow way**, **refusing His forgiveness**, **refusing Christ**. [The Heart & Heartbreak of Jesus' Kingdom]

D. It makes Jesus weep when He sees **sinners** just *passing by their opportunities* to be **saved**. Don't wait for opportunities to come ... they are **already here!**

1. **Will you allow yourself to be gathered?** There's room under His wing which is *still extended* to **you** this morning. Will you start your journey today?

2. There's a Chinese Proverb: **You don't drown by falling in** the water, you **drown by staying there**. **Arise today!**

E. Keywords: Kingdom, salvation, heart.