

Luke 13:18-30
“Religious Misperceptions”

Introduction:

Defining “misperceptions”

Examples of misperceptions

This is a story of spiritual misperceptions

I. Judging by Appearances: (vs.18-21)

Verse 18

“Then He said, “What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it?”

The significance of opening the verse with the word, “then”

Why does Jesus ask these questions?

Verse 19

“It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches.”

How Jesus uses this analogy differently here than He did in Matthew 13:31-32

What does the imagery of the parable picture?

What point was Jesus making with this parable?

Verses 20-21

“And again He said, ‘To what shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.’”

What does the imagery of the parable picture?

What point was Jesus making with this parable?

II. Asking the Wrong Questions: (vs.22-23a)

Verses 22-23a

“And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. Then one said to Him, ‘Lord, are there few who are saved?’”

Wasn't Jesus going to Jerusalem last time we were told about His travel plans (9:51-53)? Is Jesus going there again?

Why mention that He was teaching along the way?

Why did this anonymous person ask this question?

III. Not Recognizing One's Own Need: (vs.23b-30)

Verse 24

“Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.”

Does Jesus answer the question?

In what way must one “strive” for salvation since it is a free gift of grace?

What does the analogy of the “narrow gate” convey?

Why did Jesus feel it was necessary to say this?

Verse 25-27

“When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open for us’, and He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know you, where you are from’, then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets’. But He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.’”

What does this parable picture?

What point did Jesus intend to convey in using this parable?

Why are these people shut out?

What is the meaning of the claim that is made by those shut out?

What is the meaning of the response by the Lord of the household?

Verses 28-29

“There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God.”

What does the idea of gnashing one’s teeth convey?

How would this description of the end time differ from the expectations of Jesus’ audience?

Verse 30

“And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last.”

Who is Jesus referring to as being “last” and “first”?

What does this role reversal imply?

Conclusion:

What wrong conception were Jesus’ audience guilty of?

What relevance does this have to us?