

Compassion of the Kingdom

Luke 13:10-21 ▪ March 1, 2026 ▪ Noah Hadden

_____ the needs of people and _____ with compassion. (10-13)

Don't let _____ expectations overtake _____ values. (14-17)

_____ kingdom values to _____ kingdom growth. (18-21)

Luke 13:10-21

¹⁰ Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your disability." ¹³ And he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God.

¹⁴ But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." ¹⁵ Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to water it? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" ¹⁷ As he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame, and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

¹⁸ He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? ¹⁹ It is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches."

²⁰ And again he said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? ²¹ It is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened." (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What makes unexpected interruptions—especially ones that disrupt our plans—so uncomfortable for us? Can you think of a time when an interruption turned out to be a good thing?

Read & Discuss: Luke 13:10-21

1. In verses 10–13, Jesus heals a woman who had been disabled for eighteen years. How do you think Luke’s description of the woman’s suffering is intended to cause us to feel? What stands out to you about the way Jesus notices and restores her? How can we as followers of Jesus grow more alert in seeing people in need and responding to those needs?
2. Jesus later describes this woman as being “bound” by Satan (v. 16). In what ways do we still see people “bound” (whether by shame, addiction, or spiritual oppression) today? How does Jesus’ authority to set her free affect the way we pray for those who seem stuck in hopeless situations?
3. The synagogue ruler responds with indignation because the healing happened on the Sabbath (vv. 14–16). How is Jesus justified in calling them hypocrites (v. 15) in regard to their Sabbath rules? How did the Pharisees miss God’s intention for mankind behind Sabbath regulations?
4. Why is it so easy to become more concerned with keeping our systems, schedules, expectations, or even rule-keeping intact than with showing mercy? What are some good things (responsibilities, goals, even self-care) that can quietly become more important to us than the well-being of the people around us?
5. Jesus calls the woman a “daughter of Abraham” (v. 16). What is significant about that title—especially for this woman who had suffered for eighteen years? How does Jesus’ naming her restore both her dignity and her place in God’s family? How might we better see people as God sees them, particularly those in need of our compassion?
6. In the parable of the mustard seed, Jesus describes the kingdom as something that starts tiny but grows into something unexpectedly large (vv. 18-19). How does this connect to Jesus’ act of compassion for this woman? Why is it often so hard to trust that God is working when the beginnings are small?
7. How are the parable of the mustard seed and the parable of the leaven (vv. 20-21) similar in their point? Where do you see that kind of slow, steady kingdom growth happening around you?

Apply: What is one small, “mustard-seed” act of obedience, mercy, or encouragement you can take this week, trusting that God can grow it beyond what you see?

Pray: Ask God to give us eyes to see people as He sees them. Pray for the courage to prioritize mercy over rule-keeping and for the faith to trust the quiet, invisible work He is doing in people’s hearts.