

## group Bible Study – October 25, 2006

### Read Luke chapters 13-15

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“To what shall I compare the kingdom of God?” asks Jesus. This is a darned good question that we would do well to ask ourselves. What is the ‘kingdom of God’? When you read the words of Jesus, you see it everywhere. In fact, it’s often clear that the ‘gospel’ – the Good News – is all about this thing called the ‘kingdom of God.’ He sends his disciples out to preach about the kingdom in the towns and villages – this is the great message, the word of life, the revelation of God himself.

What is a kingdom? It’s a place where there is a king, and where there are people under the authority of the king. It’s that simple. But the more important question for us is, what kingdom are we in? In other words, who rules us? What government do we place ourselves under? Who sets the rules that we live by? Day by day, what do we serve with our lives?

Jesus has some harsh words in Luke chapters 13-15. He says crazy things like: “Anyone who comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.” Yikes.

The point is this: it’s all or nothing. It’s his kingdom or someone else’s. Either we do it his way completely, or we’re not doing it at all. We can only have one leader.

The simple truth is that Jesus’ teachings are pretty clear in this book. But we don’t like them and we think of all kinds of reasons to not follow them. Are you willing to give up everything you have for the kingdom of God? Prove it – stop caring about your possessions. Is Jesus your brother and God your Father? Prove it – hang out with the ‘losers’ who will never make you popular. Does your life belong to God? Prove it – make plans for your future based on what’s good for others instead of what’s good for you.

It’s either this or that. Choose.

### **Study Questions** (for individuals or groups):

- In chapter 13 Jesus says that the kingdom of God is kind of like a small seed that grows into a huge tree. Why? What do we believe about the future of this kingdom?
- “Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” How can you make this real in your life today?

Luke 13:18-19

What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches.