



## Weekly Bible Study Schedule

Tuesday, March 2, 7:00-7:50 AM

## SENATE LOUNGE

Capitol Commission is  
NON-PARTISAN and NON-  
DENOMINATIONAL

Today's study is from Luke 13. **The Big Idea of Discipleship is Proclamation.** Thousands of followers traveled with Jesus village to village, town to town, hearing Jesus upset the status quo. The Kingdom of earth and the Kingdom of God are vastly different. Jesus addresses this by asking the question: "What is the Kingdom of God like?"

### 13:1-5 – Own Your Personal Sin

**"About this time Jesus was informed that Pilate had murdered some people from Galilee as they were offering sacrifices at the Temple. [Jesus asked] "Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?"...What about the eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Were they the worst sinners in Jerusalem? I tell you again that unless you repent, you will perish, too.""**

It is conceivable that in the middle of Jesus' teaching someone interrupts by shouting out "Hey, Jesus, did you know...?" "Did you know that Pilate killed Galileans while they made sacrifices? And did you know that the tower of Siloam crashed down killing 18 people?" The report implies the deceased deserved what happened because of their personal sin. Self-justification is at play here. Jesus corrects this thinking, calamity befalling someone is not necessarily a sign of judgment. The audience did not escape death because their sins were of lesser value. In no way does Jesus minimize judgment for the deliberate sinner. Clearly, the disobedient will reap judgement. The greatest sin is one of unbelief. Sin without repentance

results in judgement. Sin with repentance results in mercy and forgiveness.

### 13:6-9 – Own Your Spiritual Growth

**"Then Jesus told this story: "A man planted a fig tree in his garden and came again and again to see if there was any fruit on it, but he was always disappointed. Finally, he said to his gardener, 'I've waited three years, and there hasn't been a single fig! Cut it down. It's just taking up space in the garden.' "The gardener answered, 'Sir, give it one more chance. Leave it another year, and I'll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. If we get figs next year, fine. If not, then you can cut it down.'"**

The surprise in this parable is not a barren fig tree, it is the one more year of opportunity to bear fruit. And, not only another opportunity, but one with more resources to facilitate growth. It is a tree of hope and a second chance.

The parable of the fig tree illustrates that some showed no signs of spiritual fruit. Present is an absence of spiritual formation. Many followed Jesus gaining greater knowledge during His three years of public ministry. Followers yield to the rule and reign of Christ over their life. Spiritual growth is not osmosis. It does not grow from simply being in the presence of Church, Synagogue, or Mosque. One must enter into a personal relationship with the teacher.

Forward pointing to the death and resurrection of Jesus, mercy and forgiveness is abundant between the time of the resurrection and His second coming. That is the year of opportunity to bear fruit.

### 13:10-17 – Own Your Standards

**[Jesus] "He saw a woman who had been crippled by an evil spirit. She had been bent double for eighteen years and was unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Dear woman, you are healed of your sickness!" Then he touched her, and instantly she could stand straight. How she praised God!**

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**But the leader in charge of the synagogue was indignant that Jesus had healed her on the Sabbath day.”**

Healed by the power of Jesus, once bound by the power of Satan. Indignant is the Synagogue because Jesus healed the sick women on the Sabbath day. The religious leader’s Hypocrisy was that he would give water and food to an animal on the Sabbath, but not help a “daughter of Abraham” be freed from Satan’s bondage.

The story of the sick women healed on the Sabbath is a spurt of Kingdom activity. One “day”: no more sickness, disease, death, tears, will be among those under the King’s reign. Silencing the voice of faith, and victor’s song will be cancelled. The Kingdom of the earth, and its worldly systems seem like they are expanding, when in reality they are shrinking. Louder and invasive yes, but shrinking just the same. The healing of the sick women that Satan bound for 18 years is set free. One of many examples that Satan’s rule is weakening.

**13:18-21 – Own Your Participation**

**“Then Jesus said, “What is the Kingdom of God like? How can I illustrate it? It is like a tiny mustard seed that a man planted in a garden; it grows and becomes a tree, and THE BIRDS MAKE NESTS IN ITS BRANCHES.” He also asked, “What else is the Kingdom of God like? It is like the yeast a woman used in making bread. Even though she put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it permeated every part of the dough.””**

Mustard seeds are small. A squint is necessary for some to see it. Beginning small, seemingly insignificant, it grows big. Jesus ushered in the Kingdom of God: words of faith, healings, freedom for the bound, and hope for the marginalized are evidences of a present Kingdom. Yeast in bread is present, not seen. Yet, its activity is immediate. Yeast (Leaven) is a disruptive force. Jesus is disrupted Satan and evil. Expansion and permeation is an invading presence. Think of a test tube with drops of water increasing upward, ever so slowly, until a point at which it overflows. Most of us will not watch the slow drip. We know it is happening, but we don’t usually observe it until it overflows.

The Kingdom of God and His righteousness is expanding in spite of opposition. Blockades are encountered along

the road, but the Kingdom of God and those that live in it continue to advance. The contrast of small and tall is not the point, the growth process is not the point, rather, the mustard seed and yeast illustrate the Kingdom has started, one day, an undeniable presence. Its significance will be observed by all. Those that live under the rule and reign of Jesus would become nested in the tree.

*“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: 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. It will become a majestic cedar, sending forth its branches and producing seed. Birds of every sort will nest in it, finding shelter in the shade of its branches. And all the trees will know that it is I, the LORD, who cuts the tall tree down and makes the short tree grow tall. It is I who makes the green tree wither and gives the dead tree new life. I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will do what I said!” Ezekiel 17:22-24*

God will realize the Davidic Rule (King David-King Jesus), so that all Jew, Gentile, Black, White, Asian, Hispanic, Latino, Native American Indian, and every nationality, ethnicity, and tribe in His Kingdom will find a position of salvation, a place of peace, a fulfilled promise of a new heaven and earth under the leadership of God. Followers of Jesus are invited to trust that God is at work and when He chooses the fullness of time to fulfill His Kingdom rule and reign.

**13:21-35 – Own Your Opportunity**

**“Someone asked him, “Lord, will only a few be saved?” He replied, “Work hard to enter the narrow door to God’s Kingdom, for many will try to enter but will fail. When the master of the house has locked the door, it will be too late. You will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Lord, open the door for us!’ But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’”**

Narrow is the gate, yet plenty of width for internal followers repentant of personal sin, demonstrating spiritual fruit, participating in the Kingdom of God by surrendering to the rule and reign of King Jesus. Now, we live in the year of mercy and grace as illustrated by the fig tree. A time will come when the fig tree is cut down, the gate closed and accountability to God will be at hand.

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Proclamation

