

## Luke 13:18-21

### Shona

18Ipapo Jesu akavabvunza achiti, “Umambo hwaMwari hwakaita seiko? Ndingahuenzanisa neiko? 19Hwakaita setsanga yemasitadhi, yakatorwa nomunhu akandoisima mubindu rake. Yakakura ikava muti mukuru, uye shiri dzedenga dzakauya dzikamhara mumatavi awo.” 20Akabvunzazve akati, “Umambo hwaMwari ndingahufananidza neiko? 21Hwakafanana nembiriso yakatorwa nomukadzi akaivhenganisa noupfu hwefurau hwakawanda kusvikira yafutisa ganyiwa.”

### Zulu

18Wayesethi: “Umbuso kaNkulunkulu ufana nani na? Ngiyakuwufanisa nani na? 19Ufana nenhlamvu yesinaphi ayithatha umuntu, wayihlwanyela ensimini yakhe; yamila, yaba ngumuthi, izinyoni zezulu zaze zakhela emagatsheni awo.” 20Wabuye wathi: “Umbuso kaNkulunkulu ngiyakuwufanisa nani na? 21Ufana nemvubelo ayithatha owesifazane, wayifaka emaqomeni amathathu empuphu, kwaze kwabila konke.”

### Pedi

18Jesu a ba botšiša a re: “Na mmušo wa Modimo o ka swantšhwa ka eng? Nka o bapiša le eng? 19O bjalo ka thorwana ya peu ya mohloko ye motho a e tšeago a e bjala ka serokolong sa gagwe, ya mela ya ba sehlare seo dinonyana di agelago dihloga makaleng a sona.” 20Jesu a ba botšiša gape a re: “Mmušo wa Modimo nka o swantšha le eng? 21O ka swantšhwa ka komelo ye mosadi a e tšeago a e tswakanya le bupi bja dikelo tše tharo go fihlela motswako wohle o omelega.”

### Swahili

18Kisha alisema, Ufalme wa Mungu umefanana na nini? Nami niufananishe na nini? 19Ume fanana na punje ya haradali aliyotwaa mtu akaitupa katika shamba lake; ikamea, ikawa mti; ndege wa angani wakakaa katika matawi yake. 20Akasema mara ya pili, Niufananishe na nini ufalme wa Mungu? 21Ume fanana na chachu aliyotwaa mwanamke akaisitiri ndani ya pishi tatu za unga, hata ukachacha wote pia.

### Tswana

18Ke fa a re: “Puso ya Modimo e tshwana le eng? Ke tla e bapisa le eng? 19E tshwana le tlhaka ya peo ya mmasetete, e motho o e tsereng, a e jwala mo tshimong ya gagwe. Ya gola, ya tswa setlhare, mme dinonyane tsa loapi tsa ba tsa aga mo dikaleng tsa sona.” 20A boa a bua gape a re: “Puso

ya Modimo ke tla e tshwantsha ka eng? 21E tswana le matlhabego a mosadi o a tsereng, a a tsenya mo dielong tse tharo tsa bupe, jwa ba jwa bela jotlhe.”

### **Afrikaans**

18Jesus het gesê: “Hoe is die koninkryk van God? Waarmee kan Ek dit vergelyk? 19Dit is soos 'n mosterdsaadjie wat iemand gevat en in sy tuin geplant het. Dit het gegroei en 'n boom geword, en die voëls het in sy takke kom nes maak.” 20Verder het Hy gesê: “Waarmee kan Ek die koninkryk van God vergelyk? 21Dit is soos suurdeeg wat 'n vrou geneem en in twintig kilogram meel ingewerk het totdat dit heeltemal deursuur was.”

### **Sermon Summary:**

Jesus gives two illustrations that are intended to help us trust that God really is going to keep the promises He has made about the kingdom through Him.

### **Review and Discussion Questions:**

1. We have been talking a lot lately about trusting God. In what areas in your life do you find it easy to trust God and in what areas of your life do you find it difficult to trust God?
2. What are some of the things that happen to you when you don't trust God? Do you have any examples from your own life?
3. In this past Sunday's sermon we identified two reasons people sometimes have a difficult time trusting God. One is ignorance and the other is unmet expectations. How does ignorance make it more difficult to trust God? What do we mean when sometimes it is hard to trust God because of unmet expectations?
4. If you are going to trust God, you really need to make sure you understand God's plan. Read the follow quote from Randy Alcorn. Though he uses the word heaven, we might even substitute the word, “the eternal kingdom of God” because that's God's ultimate plan for us as believers, as he brings heaven to earth.

***“Satan labors to give people an inaccurate view of heaven.***

Jesus said of the devil, “When he lies he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44). Some of Satan's favorite lies are about heaven. Revelation 13:6 tells us the satanic beast “opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.” Our enemy slanders three things: God's person, God's people, and God's place—heaven. Satan accomplishes his purposes not only by attacking God and us, but by attacking our view of heaven. The forces of darkness have vested interests in conveying false and unbiblical concepts of what heaven is. After being forcibly evicted from

heaven (Isaiah 14:12-14), the devil is bitter not only toward God, but toward us and the place that's no longer his. (It must be maddening for him to realize we're now entitled to the home he was kicked out of.) What better way for demons to attack than to whisper lies about the very place God tells us to set our hearts and minds on (Colossians 3:1-2)? Paul warned us to be aware of the devil's schemes (2 Corinthians 2:11) and put on God's armor to stand against them (Ephesians 6:11). One of Satan's favorite tactics is feeding us a distorted view of heaven. He knows this will rob us of joy in anticipating being with our bridegroom. It will make us fall in love with this world, as if it were our home—while Scripture commands us not to love the world and what's in it (1 John 2:15-17). A distorted view of heaven will take away our motivation to tell others about Jesus. (Why tell someone a message about how to go to heaven when you think it's going to be a dull and tedious place to be?) For this reason it's good to pray for God to enlighten our minds and break through the devil's lies as we look at what his Word says about heaven."

5. What do you think about that quote? What are some wrong ideas people have about the future God has planned for this universe?
6. One of the great heroes of the faith is a woman named Joni. She is paralyzed and yet she has great joy, and one of the reasons she has such joy is because of her knowledge of God's plan for this universe. Listen to the way she describes what God is going to do, and really this is a description of the coming kingdom of God.

"The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit's plan is to rescue humans. The Father is gathering a crowd, an inheritance that is pure and perfect and blameless, to join him in the river of joy and the whirlwind of pleasure. And he is heaven-bent on gathering glad and happy souls who will make it their eternal ambition to worship his Son in the joy of the Holy Spirit. God is love. And the wish of love is to drench with delight those who have stepped into the fellowship of sharing in his Son's suffering. And soon, perhaps sooner than we think, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are going to get their wish. Perhaps sooner than we think, God will close the curtain on sin and suffering and disease and death, and we are going to step into the Niagara Falls that will be. And one day I'm going to leave this wheelchair behind. I cannot wait. I may have suffered with Christ on earth, but one day in heaven I'm going to reign with him. I may have tasted the pains of living on this planet, but one day I'm going to eat from the tree of life in the pleasure of heaven, and it's all going to happen in the twinkling of an eye. The Lord's overcoming of this world will be the lifting of the curtain on our five senses, and we shall see him and we shall be like him, and we shall see the whole universe in plain sight. I think at first the shock of the joy that will come from reveling in the waterfall of love and pleasure that is the Trinity may burn with a brilliant newness of being glorified, but in the next instant we will be at peace. We will be drenched with delight. We will feel at home as though it were always this way, as though we were born for such a place — because we were... Romans 8:18 says that we

can consider our present sufferings not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. I have shared this before, but I must say it again. For I sure hope I can bring this wheelchair to heaven. Now, I know that's not theologically correct. But I hope to bring it and put it in a little corner of heaven, and then in my new, perfect, glorified body, standing on grateful glorified legs, I'll stand next to my Savior, holding his nail-pierced hands. I'll say, "Thank you, Jesus," and he will know that I mean it, because he knows me. He'll recognize me from the fellowship we're now sharing in his sufferings. And I will say, "Jesus, do you see that wheelchair? You were right when you said that in this world we would have trouble, because that thing was a *lot* of trouble. But the weaker I was in that thing, the harder I leaned on you. And the harder I leaned on you, the stronger I discovered you to be. It never would have happened had you not given me the bruising of the blessing of that wheelchair." Then the real ticker-tape parade of praise will begin. And all of earth will join in the party. And at that point Christ will open up our eyes to the great fountain of joy in his heart for us beyond all that we ever experienced on earth. And when we're able to stop laughing and crying, the Lord Jesus really will wipe away our tears. I find it so poignant that finally at the point when I do have the use of my arms to wipe away my own tears, I won't have to, because God will."

7. In what ways were you encouraged by what Joni had to say? How should thinking about these things help you trust God right now?
8. One reason it is sometimes difficult for us to trust what God says about this coming kingdom, even though it is glorious, is because things don't look at all that glorious right now. This may have been a struggle for the disciples as well. Certainly, the disciples had certain expectations about what Jesus was coming to do. Those expectations had to do with this great coming kingdom of God. Read the following passages and after reading the passage identify what the person in that passage was expecting God to do through the Messiah.

Luke 1:46-46

Luke 1:68-71;73-74;78,79

Luke 4:18,19

9. Now that is just a sampling, obviously. But that sampling may help you understand why the disciples must have been confused by what they saw happening with Jesus. Though in many ways he was doing the kinds of things they expected with the coming of the kingdom, he was also being rejected by the religious leadership of Israel at the same time. They were expecting something great, and yet, Jesus was on his way to being humiliated and rejected. Turn over to Luke 24, and read verses 18-24. These two men illustrate the way the disciples must have responded to Jesus' death. What is their attitude?

10. The point is that the disciples had expectations about how God was going to do what He was going to do through Jesus but God didn't go about doing things that way, and it was hard for them to process. What two illustrations does Jesus give in Luke 13:18-21 to encourage them not to judge what's happening by the way things were looking right then? What does he compare the kingdom of God to? Explain what those illustrations mean and how they should have given them encouragement.
11. Too often we judge what God's doing by appearances. If we think it makes sense then we trust God. If we think it doesn't make sense, then we don't trust God. Why is this so foolish when it comes to God?
12. What should you do when you begin to become discouraged about what's happening in this world or in your life and when you are tempted not to trust God? How can you deal with this unbelief?
13. What have you learned or how have you been encouraged or how might you seek to apply what we have talked about together?