



## The Words of Jesus Series

# The Narrow Way

Sabbath, Narrow Way, Fig Tree, Mustard Seed, Leaven

**Context: Luke Chapters 13 & 14**

**Lesson 1 – Three Short Parables** (Luke 13:1-9, Luke 13:18-21)

**Lesson 2 – Sabbath Healings** (Luke 13:10-17, Luke 14:1-6)

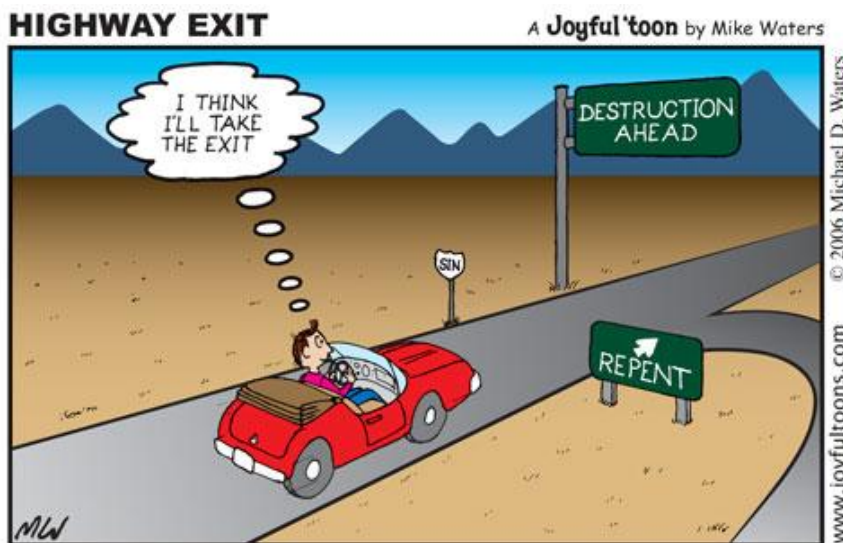
**Lesson 3 – Passing Through Villages** (Luke 13:22-35)

Jesus heals on the Sabbath twice, answers some questions, teaches in various villages, talks about the narrow way, and tells three parables – the fig tree, mustard seed and leaven.

### Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer if it is based on Scripture.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"



Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.  
- MATTHEW 7:13 NIV

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**Lesson 1 – Three Short Parables** (Luke 13:1-9, Luke 13:18-21)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[1A] Luke 13:1 Who had been killed while offering sacrifices? \_\_\_\_\_

[1B] Luke 13:2-3 What will happen to those that do not repent? \_\_\_\_\_

[1C] Luke 13:4-5 What will happen to those that do not repent? \_\_\_\_\_

[1D] Luke 13:6 What happened when the man looked for fruit? \_\_\_\_\_

[1E] Luke 13:7 How long had he expected fruit? \_\_\_\_\_

[1F] Luke 13:8-9 What will happen to the tree if it continues to be useless? \_\_\_\_\_

[1G] Luke 13:18-19 What is the Kingdom of God like? \_\_\_\_\_

[1H] Matthew 13:31-32 What do we learn about mustard seeds in Matthew that is not found in Luke? \_\_\_\_\_

[1I] Luke 13:20-21 What is the Kingdom of God like? \_\_\_\_\_

[1J] Luke 12:1 What are they warned against? \_\_\_\_\_

[1K] Mark 8:15 What are they warned against? \_\_\_\_\_

[1L] Compare Luke 12:1 and Luke 13:20-21. Is leaven a good thing or a bad thing. How do you know? What does this little parable in Luke 13 about leaven teach us about the Kingdom of God?

(Hints: Matthew 16:11-12; Mark 4:30-32)

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

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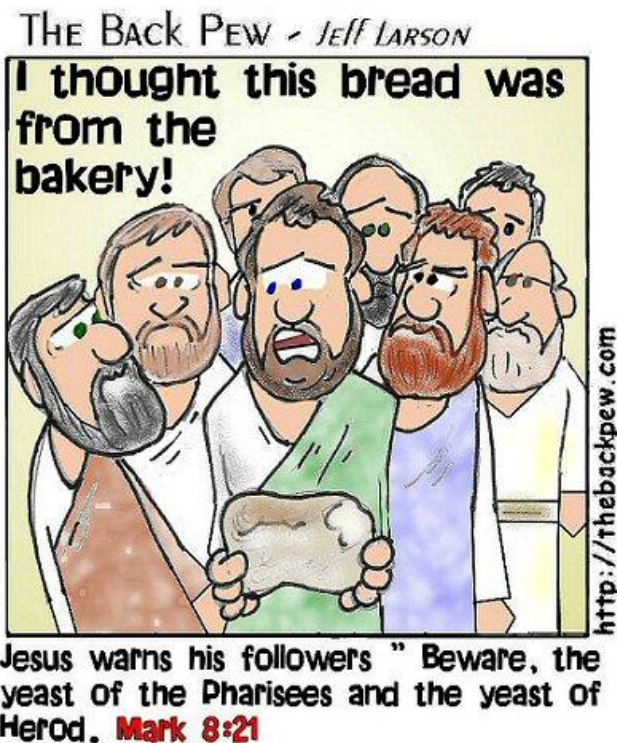
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**Lesson 1 – Three Short Parables** (Luke 13:1-9, Luke 13:18-21)

- [1A] Luke 13:1 Who had been killed while offering sacrifices? Some Galileans  
[1B] Luke 13:2-3 What will happen to those that do not repent? They will perish  
[1C] Luke 13:4-5 What will happen to those that do not repent? They will perish  
[1D] Luke 13:6 What happened when the man looked for fruit? He found none  
[1E] Luke 13:7 How long had he expected fruit? Three years  
[1F] Luke 13:8-9 What will happen to the tree if it continues to be useless? It will be cut down  
[1G] Luke 13:18-19 What is the Kingdom of God like? A mustard seed that grows into a large tree  
[1H] Matthew 13:31-32 What do we learn about mustard seeds in Matthew that is not mentioned in Luke? It is very small seed that grows into a large tree  
[1I] Luke 13:20-21 What is the Kingdom of God like?  
Like leaven which spreads through dough (See also Matthew 13:33)  
[1J] Luke 12:1 What are they warned against? Leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy  
[1K] Mark 8:15 What are they warned against? Leaven of the Pharisees and leaven of Herod

[1L] Leaven in and of itself is neither good nor evil. In some cases it is used as an illustration of how a little bit of evil infects everything around it. In this case in Luke 13:20-21 it is talking about how the Kingdom of God once allowed into our heart will eventually touch every part of our life and have more influence over us than everything else.

**For further thought:**

- (1m) If repentance prevents death (Luke 13:2-5) why do repentant people die?
- (1n) In Luke 13:6-9, what does the Parable of the Fig Tree mean?
- (1o) Compare Luke 13:6-9 with Matthew 21:18-19. One is a parable and the other an actual event. Do they have the same message to us? Why or why not?
- (1p) *Word Study on "fig tree"* Compare these scriptures: Deuteronomy 8:8, Judges 9:10-11; Proverbs 27:18; Isaiah 34:3-5; Jeremiah 8:13; Micah 4:4; Habakkuk 3:17, Mark 11:12-14, 20-24, Luke 13:6-9, John 1:50, James 3:12; Revelation 6:13  
There are almost 20 more references to "fig tree" in the Bible, but in my opinion they are all similar to one or the other of the ones above. See if you agree:
- |                      |              |                  |
|----------------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1 Kings 4:25         | Hosea 9:10   | Zechariah 3:10   |
| 2 Kings 18:31        | Joel 1:7, 12 | Matthew 21:18-21 |
| Psalms 105:33        | Joel 2:22    | Mark 13:28       |
| Song of Solomon 2:13 | Amos 4:9     | Luke 6:44        |
| Isaiah 36:16         | Nahum 3:12   | Luke 21:29       |
| Jeremiah 5:17        | Haggai 2:19  | John 1:48        |
| Hosea 2:12           |              |                  |

**My further thoughts:**

- (1m) Luke 13:2-5 is talking about spiritual death, not physical death, in my opinion.
- (1n) The Parable of the Fig Tree means if we are useless to God we might want to examine our relationship with Him closely to make sure our roots are in Him, we are obedient to Him.
- (1o) I think they do have the same message. We are expected to bear fruit for the kingdom. God is merciful, but there is a limit to how long He will wait for us to become useful to Him.

**Lesson 2 – Sabbath Healings** (Luke 13:10-17, Luke 14:1-6)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[2A] Exodus 20:8-11 How much work are we to do on the Sabbath? \_\_\_\_\_

[2B] Luke 13:10 Where was Jesus teaching? \_\_\_\_\_

[2C] Luke 13:11 How long had the woman been suffering? \_\_\_\_\_

[2D] Luke 13:12-13 What did Jesus say and do? \_\_\_\_\_

[2E] Luke 13:14 How did the synagogue official feel about the miracle? \_\_\_\_\_

[2F] Luke 13:15 Were animals neglected on the Sabbath? \_\_\_\_\_

[2G] Luke 13:16-17 How did His opponents feel? \_\_\_\_\_

[2H] Luke 14:1 Where did Jesus go? \_\_\_\_\_

[2I] Luke 14:2 What disease did the man have? \_\_\_\_\_

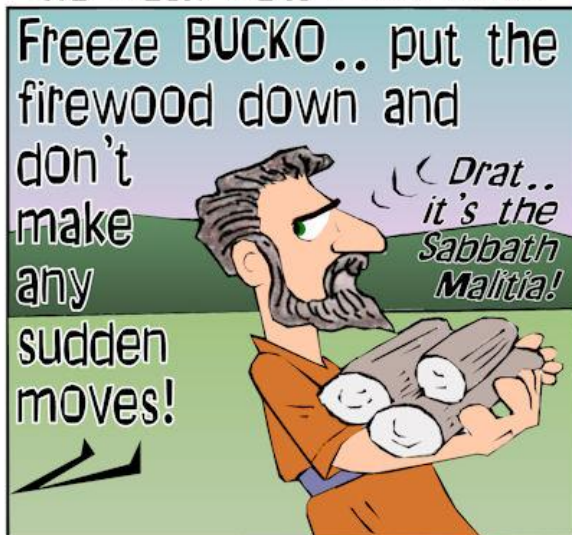
[2J] Luke 14:3-4 Did they answer His question? \_\_\_\_\_

[2K] Luke 14:5 Did they answer His question? \_\_\_\_\_

[2N] In Luke 14:1-5 I'm wondering why there was a sick man in the home of the "leader of the Pharisees?" Was the "leader of the Pharisees" being kind to someone who was sick? Was it a relative of the Pharisee? Was it someone brought in deliberately to trap Jesus? Either way, so what?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The Back Pew** – Jeff Larson



**STONED ON THE SABBATH**

In hindsight.. gathering firewood on the Sabbath was a task Gary would have been better off put off for a different day.

**Nu 15:32-36**

**Lesson 2 – Sabbath Healings** (Luke 13:10-17, Luke 14:1-6)

[2A] Exodus 20:8-11 How much work are we to do on the Sabbath? None

[2B] Luke 13:10 Where was Jesus teaching? Synagogue A local assembly and worship place of the Jews

[2C] Luke 13:11 How long had the woman been suffering? 18 years

[2D] Luke 13:12-13 What did Jesus say and do? Told her she was free and laid hands on her

[2E] Luke 13:14 How did the synagogue official feel about the miracle?

We are not told, but he was indignant about the timing of the miracle

[2F] Luke 13:15 Were animals neglected on the Sabbath? No, they were cared for

[2G] Luke 13:16-17 How did His opponents feel? Humiliated

[2H] Luke 14:1 Where did Jesus go? House of one of the leaders of the Pharisees

[2I] Luke 14:2 What disease did the man have? Dropsy Most scholars think this means epilepsy

[2J] Luke 14:3-4 Did they answer His question? No

[2K] Luke 14:5 Did they answer His question? No

[2N] I think it was probably a trap so the "leader" could show his minions that Jesus was "not to be trusted." Jesus wasn't trying to hide anything or impress anyone, so He healed the man and stood up to them. The lesson for us is to do the right thing regardless of circumstances or audience.

**For further thought:**

(2o) Compare Exodus 20:8-11 with Deuteronomy 5:12-15, particularly the reason given for the commandment. So what?

(2p) Why did Jesus ask that question Luke 14:3? Was He seeking approval, permission, or what? Why?

(2q) Which day of the week do you rest? Why? If you don't have a rest day, why not?

(2r) Which day of the week does your church meet for worship? Why?

(2s) Compare Luke 13:10-17; Luke 14:1-6; Luke 6:1-11; Matthew 12:1-4, Mark 2:23-28, and Mark 3:1-6. What did you learn?

**My further thoughts:**

(2o) The reasons given seem different at first, but if you look closely it is referring to two different things. Exodus gives the reason He gave the commandment and Deuteronomy explains why the people should obey it. It is the same reason we should obey Him. He saved us, so we should be grateful, and He created us, so He knows what is the best thing for us to do.

**Lesson 3 – Passing Through Villages** (Luke 13:22-35)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[3A] Luke 13:22 Jesus' travel plans named what city his final destination? \_\_\_\_\_

[3B] Luke 13:23 What did the person want to know? \_\_\_\_\_

[3C] Luke 13:24 What should we strive to do? \_\_\_\_\_

[3D] Luke 13:25 What will the answer be if we knock after the door is closed? \_\_\_\_\_

[3E] Luke 13:26 Will taking the Lord's Supper and street preaching gain us entrance? \_\_\_\_\_

[3F] Luke 13:27 What will be the answer to claims of having worked for Him? \_\_\_\_\_

[3G] Luke 13:28 Who is named as being in the Kingdom of God? \_\_\_\_\_

[3H] Luke 13:29 From where will people come to join the prophets and patriarchs? \_\_\_\_\_

[3I] Luke 13:30 Who will be first? \_\_\_\_\_

[3J] Luke 13:31 Why was Jesus arrived to leave? \_\_\_\_\_

[3K] Luke 13:32 How did Jesus label Herod? \_\_\_\_\_

[3L] Luke 13:33 Did Jesus expect to die in area of Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

[3M] Luke 13:34 Did Jesus like the people of Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

[3N] What does Luke 13:35 mean? (Hint: Psalm 118:26) \_\_\_\_\_

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

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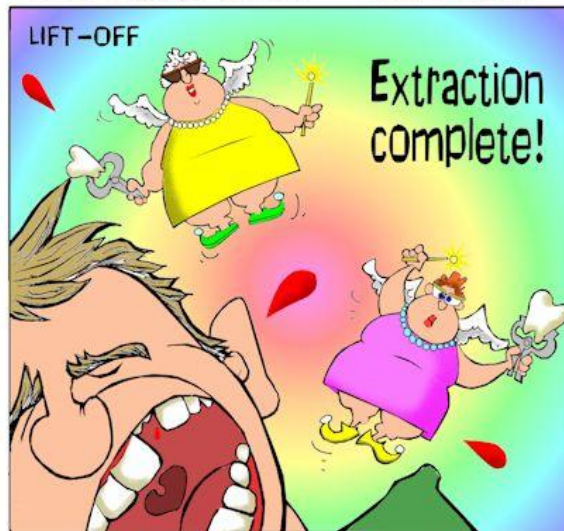
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**The Back Pew – Jeff Larson**



Due to these challenging economic times the Tooth Fairy Union (TOOFU) has changed their business model to include **EXTRACTIONS** a place where there is *WEEPING* and *EXTRACTION* of **TEETH**. **Mt 8:12, Lk 13:28**

**Lesson 3 – Passing Through Villages (Luke 13:22-35)**

[3A] Luke 13:22 Jesus' travel plans named what city his final destination? Jerusalem

[3B] Luke 13:23 What did the person want to know? How many were being saved

[3C] Luke 13:24 What should we strive to do? Enter through the narrow door

[3D] Luke 13:25 What will the answer be if we knock after the door is closed? He won't know us

[3E] Luke 13:26 Will taking the Lord's Supper and street preaching gain us entrance? No

[3F] Luke 13:27 What will be the answer to claims of having worked for Him? He won't know us

[3G] Luke 13:28 Who is named as being in the Kingdom of God?

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the all the prophets

[3H] Luke 13:29 From where will people come to join the prophets and patriarchs? Everywhere

[3I] Luke 13:30 Who will be first? The last

[3J] Luke 13:31 Why was Jesus arrived to leave? Herod wanted to kill Him

[3K] Luke 13:32 How did Jesus label Herod? Fox, not king

[3L] Luke 13:33 Did Jesus expect to die in area of Jerusalem? Yes

[3M] Luke 13:34 Did Jesus like the people of Jerusalem? Yes, like a mother bird loves her chicks

[3N] Luke 13:35 "Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you, you will not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' " Jesus quoted Psalm 118:26. If you read the Psalm in its entirety, I believe you will find it is talking about salvation.

In Luke 13:24-35, Jesus is talking about the narrow way to salvation, and using the Old Testament to make His point. Religious observances like taking the Lord Supper or getting baptized won't do it, although those should not be neglected. "Working for God" in some kind of ministry won't do it, although we should do that, too. The only thing that will let us slip through that narrow opening is following Jesus. "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

You have to come to the end of your plans, your schemes, your attitude, your ambition, your pride, and yourself. You must put your trust in nothing about yourself or anything that you imagine you have control over. You must surrender totally to the will of God and submit to the Lord Jesus Christ trusting Him to cleanse you with His own blood.

**For further thought:**

(3o) Compare Luke 13:33-35 with Matthew 23:37-39. What is the same what is different.

(3p) Compare Luke 13:33-34 with Luke 19:41. Is there any relationship? Why or why not?

(3q) Compare Luke 13:25 with Luke 11:9-10. Why is one knock answered and not the other?

(3r) What did you learn in this course that you would like to remember?

(3s) If someone asked you what this course was about, what would you tell them?

(3t) What scripture from this course would be best to memorize? Why?