

REPENTANCE: (12:54-13:9)

Jesus demands that the crowds stop vacillating and see what is going on between Him and the Authorities – and where it will lead to.

Can't they **read** the Messianic Signs? Judgement is imminent for the Nation, because the **death of the Messiah** will be followed soon after by the **death of the Temple**, the death of the City and the death of the Nation!

vs 57:59

They should wake up, repent and enter the Kingdom of God while there is still time – like someone settling with his enemy on the way (on the Journey!) to Court (final Judgement).

- The Church is warned to keep its home in order on the Journey also!!

Examples of Repentance: (13:1-5)

Jesus chooses two terrible incidents from recent history to illustrate that Life can be taken from us swiftly and brutally.

- This does **NOT** mean that these people were more guilty than others.
 - It merely illustrates that we need to be **EVER-READY** to meet God in Judgement.

vs 5

- Those people “**PERISHED**” (ie) lost their lives
you might **PERISH** (ie) **lose your soul** – much greater tragedy!

The Barren Fig Tree: (13:6-9)

The Fig Tree was a symbol of the House of Israel - the whole nation.

- In (3:9) John the Baptist had predicted that Judgement was coming: the axe was being laid to the roots of the Trees (Vine / Olive / Fig)
- Here in (13:6-9) God **has** laid the axe, **but Jesus begs for more time!** He has one more year of Ministry to manifest God's loving mercy.
- So Israel is given **MORE TIME** to Repent! (cf. Jn 15:1-5)

(NB) God deals with the Church and the individual in the same way
But the time comes when mercy is replaced by Justice. **Be warned!** Cf. 2 Pet 3:6; Rom 3:19

Triumph over Enemies: (13:10-21)

- The woman symbolises Israel bent with burdens and held that way by Satan. The 3 years are the length of Christ's ministry.
- The nation is **still** not able to 'lift up its head' as the son of God.
- Jesus wants to release her on the Sabbath so that she will give glory to God – It will **truly** be God's Day of re-creation for her.

13:14

The synagogue official is indignant and lectures the people about the use of the Synagogue in obedience to the Laws! (11:46)

- These laws are **part** of Israel's burden, which **they** refuse to lift.

13:15 Jesus exposed their hypocrisy because everyone knew they would help their **animals** on the Sabbath day! Was a human being **worth** nothing to them? (8:26-39)

*Jesus is the Liberator of his People Cf. chap 4

13:17 Jesus won this battle – but what is **one** victory?

Two Parables:

- a) **Mustard Seed:** The Kingdom of God would spread throughout the **world** – bringing God's Victory over Satan and bondage to all mankind.
- b) **The Yeast:** The grace of Redemption would spread spiritually transforming all mankind.

Result: All nations would be able to stand up as the People of God when Jesus bore their burdens on the Cross and won his definitive victory over Satan.

STAGE 3: THE GOING

(13:22 → 17:10)

Our Inheritance through Jesus: destined for Glory!

A. Citizens of the K.O.G.: 13:22–30

1) “Will only a few be saved?”

a) There **will** be weeping...

b) The door shut...

c) You outside

2) Jesus will be rejected: 13:31-35

- Jerusalem kills the prophets... Herod, the fox

3) Worship of God vs human need: 14:1-6

B. The Messianic Banquet: 14:7 -15:2

1) The Lord’s invitation... declined! 14:7-24

- 3 parables: a) Places at Table... message **to guests**

b) Eternal reward for true hospitality... message **to hosts**

c) Messianic Banquet... guests made excuses not to attend

2) Cost of Discipleship: 14:25-35

a) Count the cost

b) Renunciation of Possessions

3) Pharisees criticize Jesus: 15:1-2

- He welcomes sinners – even **eats** with them!

C. The Joy of Redemption: 15:3 – 16:18

1) 3 parables: lost sheep... lost coin... lost son...

2) The calculations of stewardship: 16:1-13 ... faithfulness

3) Pharisees scoff at Jesus: 16:14-18

- easier for a camel to go through eye of a needle than a rich man to enter Heaven!

D. The Joy of Heaven: 16:19 - 17:10

1) The pleas of the lost refused... cf. 13:22-30 - they were warned!

2) Disciples who stumble: 17:1-4 ... how to deal with it

3) Servants’ needs versus the Lord’s due: 17:5-10

“... we have only done our duty...”

- Here we are on the **final**, long journey from Galilee of the Gentiles – where Jesus did most of his work – **TO** Jerusalem, the political and religious heart of Judaism.
- Jerusalem was the power-base of the Sanhedrin – which was made up of Sadducees (Priests), Pharisees and representatives of the higher echelons of society – like Joseph of Arimathea

Who are the Citizens of the K.O.G.? 13:22-30

13:22 The people worry about Jesus' high standards for those who join him... and the present condition of the Nation.

13:23 *"will only a FEW be saved?"*

13:24 Jesus did not diminish his demands – but warned that many would not make it **INTO** the K.O.G.! K.O.G. has a **NARROW DOOR**: cf. Mt 7:13-14

13:25 This was Israel's 'Day of Salvation' cf. 2 Cor 6:2

2 Cor 6:2 "Behold, this is the acceptable time, now is the Day of Salvation"

- Yet this time of Grace – with God Incarnate walking among them – will **CLOSE**

Note: The narrow gate – or door – refers to the Pedestrian entrance into Jerusalem
- beside the **MAIN GATE** –

- The rich and powerful travelling on horseback, camel or mule entered by the main gate
- But the main gate closed every evening allowing only Pedestrians to get in... the camel would **never** fit

This image is used in different ways in the Synoptics.

(NB) The door will close for Israel after she murders her Messiah.

13:26 Claiming Jewish Nationality and culture is **NOT a KEY** to **opening** that door!

Cf. Wise and Foolish Virgins in Mt 25:10-12

Those left out cry: *"We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets."*

Yet we **know** that **physical** presence with Jesus does **NOT** denote spiritual union! Cf. Luke 7:36-50

- the Pharisees who ate and drank with Jesus **HATED** him - and would eventually kill him.
- Notice that those Pharisees didn't come to Jesus' Banquet for converted sinners in Lk 5:27-32. *"You taught in our streets"* – does **NOT** guarantee that **you** *"listened to the Word of God and put it into practice"*: Lk 11:28

13:27 **Jesus' Judgement:**
a) *"I do not know you..."*
b) *"away from ME, you evil men"* (Ps 6:8)

'evil' means the absence of good... of **love**... ∴ they are unfit for the K.O.G..

- Judgement came to Israel after "the door closed" in 32 AD
- 40 years later the Judgement followed: AD 70-135

13:28 - They will be shocked to find themselves separated from their Patriarchs and Prophets!

13:29 - Even more shocked to find that children have been raised for Abraham from the stones! Cf. Lk 3:8
- Gentiles from North/South/East/West will take **THEIR** places in the K.O.G.

13:30 The shocking Judgement of the Saviour of the World.

- There are those **NOW LAST – who will be FIRST** and those **NOW FIRST who will be LAST**.

- a) Those who are **FIRST NOW... at the time of Christ**
 - i) The Sanhedrin
 - ii) The Rich and the powerful

- b) Those **NOW LAST... at time of Christ**
 - (i) Widows and orphans
 - (ii) Sinners in general
 - (iii) The poor and the powerless
 - (iv) Gentiles

- c) Those now **FIRST in 21st Century**
 - (i) Church Leaders
 - (ii) Christians in general
 - (iii) The Rich and the Powerful

- d) Those who are **LAST in 21st century**
 - (i) Sinners... atheists... false religions
 - (ii) The Poor and the powerless
 - (iii) Non-Christians

Ⓝ Jesus declared that there would be a **great REVERSAL** because *“he pulls the mighty from their thrones and raises up the lowly”*: Lk 1:52 cf. Isaiah 43:19; Isaiah 60:22; **Jer. 29:11**; Ps 145:18

- 3½ centuries later God pulled the mighty Roman Empire down and raised up the lowly church...

1. Jesus will be Rejected 13:31-35 cf. Lk 2:34

13:31 The Pharisees – no friends of Jesus! – warn him about Herod Antipas’s sly trick to kill Jesus, after he had killed John the Baptist.

- His father, Herod the Great, tried to kill Jesus in infancy: cf. Mt chap 2
- The Pharisees want Jesus to **FLEE** from death!
- In Lk 23:35-38 the leaders will **JEER** him for not saving himself from **The Cross!**

13:32 - **With regard to Herod** – and all others – Jesus will show that no human being can stop him from achieving his goal of saving the world **THROUGH** the Cross.

- He will continue his **Mission** as planned
- He will achieve his goal on the 3rd day (v 33)
- cf. Jn 7:30; 8:20: his *“Hour had not yet come”*

13:33 Jesus is a Prophet – **THE** Prophet

- like other prophets he, too, will die in Jerusalem!

13:34-35 Jesus’ grief over Jerusalem: Cf. Lk 19:41-44