

We will begin the thirteenth lecture on the gospel of Luke. /Today we will begin with Luke chapter 13. /In verses 1-9, /Jesus told the people to repent. /The people of Galilee were gathering offerings.

/Pilate sent his army to kill the people of Galilee, and thus, the peoples blood were mixed with the sacrifices. /All the people of Galilee thought that the people who were killed were killed for their sins. /This was because all politicians purged the people saying that they sinned.

/However, Jesus heard this /and said that everyone was a sinner before God /and thus, they would be destroyed if they did not repent. /The people who died did not sin more than the people of Galilee.

/The people of Galilee were all sinners before God. /The people of Galilee were to be put to death for their sins, but /Jesus wanted to give them a chance to repent and become upright. /God only allowed a certain number of people to die.

/If people sin and do not repent, /God sends some of them into the hands of wicked men to be killed. /God does this so that the remaining people would repent and be upright. /We must remember this and repent of our sins.

/Verses 4-5 speak of the fallen tower of Siloam. /A tower in Siloam fell and killed eighteen people. /These people seemed to have been killed in an accident, /but they were killed because of their sins.

/At the time, those who were alive in Jerusalem /did not have lesser sins than the eighteen people who died. /They did not live because they had little sins. /They were too sinners. /God only extended their lives /to give them the chance to repent. /If they didn't repent, /they too would die.

/When we see people who die in accidents, /we must know that they were killed because of their sins. /However, those who are alive must know that they too are sinners /and they must repent. /If we do not repent, we too will be destroyed.

/In verse 6, Jesus told a parable about a fig tree that had no fruit. /Fig trees were not planted for lumber. /They were planted for their fruit. /If fig trees did not bear fruit, they were useless.

/That is why Jesus cursed the fig tree for having leaves but not fruit. /The fig tree especially symbolizes the Jewish religion. /Today, God does not demand /extravagant rituals or religious businesses from us.

/The Lord wants us to bear spiritual fruit of faith. /No matter how grand rituals are, /God will cut us down if we do not bear spiritual fruit. /What fruit must believers bear? /First is the fruit of repentance. /Second is the fruit of righteousness, truth, and holiness. /Third is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

/In verse 7 it says that the man did not find fruit on the tree for three years. /The number “three” is God’s number. /Jesus taught on this earth for three years. /The number three here means that /God encouraged the people for long enough.

/To “cut it down” /means that God will wait until his appointed time /and then if the tree does not bear fruit, he will cut it down and throw it in the fire. /Today, churches have become secularized /and have abandoned the truth for new theologies.

/God is waiting with his ax of judgment. /The day is coming closer. /Therefore, we must repent /and wait for the Lord’s return with faith.

/In verse 8, the man asked to wait a little longer. /He said, “I’ll dig around it and fertilize it,” /which means that God will once again pour out his mercy and grace /and wait for fruit to bear. /One more year /means that God will give one more chance for the tree to bear fruit.

/This is the last chance to repent and bear fruit. /Once this opportunity passes, there will be no more opportunities. /Therefore, we too /must remember that our environments and opportunities /are our last /and we must strive to bear fruit.

/In order for us to bear fruit, /we must first repent. /Our spirits must first come alive. /Then we can become like God in his image /and bear fruit.

/In verses 10-17, /Jesus healed the sick on a Sabbath. /When Jesus taught in the synagogue, /He put His hands on a woman who was crippled for eighteen years. /The Lord went to the woman /and placed His hands on her and healed her.

/However, there was a problem /with the synagogue ruler. /In verse 14, the synagogue ruler /only knew the external meaning of the Sabbath according to the laws. /He did not know the true meaning of the commandment. /Thus, he saw that Jesus healed the woman on a Sabbath /and he became outraged and forbid healing on the Sabbath.

/Then Jesus correctly taught the crowd about the Sabbath. /Jesus said, “Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? /Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free from what bound her?”

/The synagogue ruler kept the Sabbath only on the outside. /Jesus taught him about the fundamentals about the Sabbath. /What are the fundamental about the Sabbath? /First it is to get spiritual rest. /Second, it is spiritual freedom and liberation.

/Here it says, “a daughter of Abraham,” /which does not mean that she was Abraham’s descendent by blood, /but she was a daughter of Abraham because she had faith that was like his. /We too have become daughters of Abraham by faith in Christ.

/God's great work took place /and when Jesus properly taught the truth, /those who opposed Him were humiliated. /The crowd delighted in all the wonderful things Jesus said.

/In verses 18-21 /is the parable of the mustard seed and the yeast. /Here, "the kingdom of God" /is not the eternal kingdom of heaven, /but the church on earth. /The mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds. /However, it has life and when it is planted, /it grows into a big tree and the birds of the air perch on its branches.

/God's work of life also begins with the weakest and smallest people. /However, because there is life, they grow more and more, and they flourish. /Then through them, many people are saved.

/The birds of the air /symbolize the people of the world who are of the devil. /When churches grow in number, /there are people of the world who try to rely on the churches.

/In verses 20-21, Jesus told the parable about the yeast. /There are two interpretations about the yeast. /First, it can be interpreted in a good way, /that the yeast spread like the gospel. /Second, it can be interpreted in a bad way, /that the yeast symbolizes heresies, hypocrisy, /the nature of sin, and false teachings.

/In the beginning of chapter 13, it says that whoever does not repent will be destroyed, /then it says that the fruitless fig tree will be cut down, /and finally Jesus talked about the parable of the mustard seed and the yeast. /Therefore, the yeast can symbolize the corruption of the church. /The "woman" here symbolizes the humanistic world.

/The large amount of flour is used to be bread for daily food. /In Greek, the amount is "three sats," and the number three is God's number. /Thus, it is purely God's word. /When the humanistic thoughts that is like yeast /get mixed into God's pure word, /the church will soon become corrupted. /Therefore, the church must not allow elements like the yeast to enter.

/In verses 22-30, /Jesus said to make every effort to enter through the narrow door. /Jesus taught in cities and in towns. /Jesus went to Jerusalem, /and one man asked Jesus a question.

/He asked about the number of people who were going to be saved. /Then Jesus told them to make every effort to enter through the narrow door. /This means that the number of those who were going to be saved was small. /The door of salvation is a narrow door. /It is a narrow road.

/Jesus told them to make every effort to enter through the narrow door. /First, everyone who believes in Jesus enters through the narrow door. /Those who do not believe go through the wide door. /Second, those who walk according to God's word /among the believers of Jesus will enter through the narrow door.

/Those who yield the truth /and go against the Bible even if they believe in Jesus will go down the wide road. /These people will receive shameful salvation like people from fire.

/The door of salvation will close when the great tribulation comes. /When people leave this world, there will be no other way to receive salvation. /Once the door of salvation closes, no one can enter even if he tries. /Jesus said, "I don't know you or where you come from."

/This means that God will not acknowledge those who do not live by God's word. /Those who forsake God's word will not be acknowledged. /They will be rebuked before God's judgment.

/We believers must diligently learn the Bible /when the door is still open. /We must evangelize while the door is open. /We must obey more and live out our salvation while the door is open.

/People will say this before the Lord's judgment. /They will say that they ate and drank with the Lord /and learned when the Lord taught in the streets. /However, Jesus will not acknowledge them. /This is because they abandoned the Bible and walked in wickedness. /It is wicked for people not to believe in Jesus. /It is a sin to go against the Bible.

/In verse 28, /it says that those who followed Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and all the prophets will enter the kingdom of God. /Those who did not believe will be thrown out and will weep in hell. /There will be people from all directions of the world who believe in Jesus.

/In verse 30, there will be those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last. /"Those who are last who will be first" /are those who appear to believe last, /who learn the Bible /and believe and obey God's word.

/However, those who believe first /will not live by the Bible /and will not grow, and become last. /That is why we must not boast, "I believed first," /"I believed since I was young," /or "I was given this office in the church." /We must obey the Bible.

/In verses 31-35, /the Lord lamented over the destruction of Israel. /Some Pharisees came to Jesus and told Jesus to leave /because they thought that Herod was trying to kill Jesus. /They did not believe in Jesus, but they cared for Him.

/The "fox" is King Herod. /Herod was cunning like a fox and disturbed God's salvation movement. /Herod tried to destroy God's works, and so Jesus called him a fox.

/Jesus said, "I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow." /Jesus said that He would do His work today, /do His work tomorrow, /and then complete His work when He resurrected on the third day.

/In verse 33, /Jesus said, "I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day."

/Today's work was /to chase out demons /and heal the sick. /Tomorrow, Jesus would /die on the cross and complete redemption. /The "next day" is the third day, /the day of Jesus' resurrection.

/Just as many prophets were killed in Jerusalem, /Jesus would die on the cross in Jerusalem as well.

/In verses 34-35, /Jesus encouraged the people of Jerusalem to believe in God. /However, they did not want to, and they persecuted prophets and righteous men. /They would eventually nail Christ to the cross to die. /Jesus said that their sins were like the desolate city of Jerusalem.

/In this way, whoever does not repent even when God tells them several times to, /and whoever does not obey /will receive judgment, whether they are individuals, groups, or nations. /"He who comes in the name of the Lord" refers to Christ.

/The Jews would be ruined by God's punishment /and they would suffer for a long time until they repent, /and then they would hope and wait on the salvation of God. /Then they will be able to receive Christ in their hearts. /Therefore, whoever repents will be blessed.

/Next in chapter 14, Jesus spoke about the disciples' freedom. /In verses 1-6, /Jesus healed a man with dropsy. /Jesus was invited to the house of a Pharisee to eat /on a Sabbath. /There was a man who suffered from dropsy.

/“Dropsy” is a sickness in which water fills up in the stomach area. /People with weak kidneys or livers are more prone to this sickness. /At the time, dropsy was impossible to cure. /People brought a man with dropsy to Jesus.

/They wanted to test Jesus and see if He would heal the man on a Sabbath. /Jesus questioned them, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?” /The Pharisees forbid healing on the Sabbath.

/Thus, Jesus asked this question to correct their ways of thinking. /The people then remained silent because they were overwhelmed by Jesus' authority. /Then Jesus healed the man with dropsy.

/Jesus did not simply heal the man because He had pity on him, /but because He wanted to teach the people the truth about the Sabbath. /The Lord showed that the Sabbath was a day for spiritual healing.

/The Lord healed the man to teach that the Sabbath is a day of freedom and liberation from the devil, /and to show that the Lord gives spiritual rest to us. /The Pharisees rescued their sons or their oxen from wells on the Sabbath.

/Yet, they forbid rescuing believers from their sicknesses /or from the well of the devil on the Sabbath. /This contradicted their actions. /Thus, they could not answer Jesus'

question.

/In verses 7-11, /Jesus told them to sit in the lowest seat. /He told the people a parable when He saw them sitting in the places of honor. /The Pharisees liked to sit in the high places at banquets. /They also liked to be greeted in the marketplaces. /They also liked to be called “rabbi.”

/In verses 8-10, Jesus saw this and taught them. /The Gentiles thought that in order to be considered great, they had to sit in the places of honor. /However, Jesus said, “do not take the place to honor.”

/When a more distinguished person comes, /the person in that seat has no choice but to move down to a lower seat /in humiliation. /This means that whoever sits in the high seat, God will bring down.

/Jesus told the people to sit in the least important place when invited to a feast. /God will lift believers up when they are humble wherever they go. /Then believers will receive glory. /This is God’s way of lifting them up.

/In verse 11, Jesus said, “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” /Whoever lifts himself up will be humbled. /God will lift up those who humble themselves.

/In Matthew 18:4, /Jesus said, “Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

/In verses 12-14, /Jesus said to invite those who cannot repay you. /When someone invites others, /they should not invite people who would repay them for the invitation. /This was because if the person is invited by others to be repaid for the previous invitation, /he would not have reward in heaven to receive.

/When we do good or act righteously and are repaid by others, /there will be nothing for us to receive before God. /Therefore, Jesus said to invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. /These people will not be able to repay us.

/Therefore, God would repay us in heaven. /Therefore, we must do good to those who cannot repay us. /Then God will surely repay us.

/Jesus said, “you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” /Believers are righteous through faith. /When Jesus returns, believers will be resurrected. /At that time, the glory of believers who did good to others will shine brighter than others. /The Lord will repay them with many rewards.

/In verses 15-24, /Jesus said to take part in the banquet in heaven. /In verse 15, “When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, ‘Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.’” /He said that blessed is the man who will eat

at the feast in the kingdom of God.

/Thus, Jesus taught the people with a parable about the great banquet. /There was a great banquet and this implies the heaven movement, or the gospel movement. /Christ invited many people to His banquet.

/Jesus prepared the grace of redemption /and sent out a servant to bring people to participate in the banquet of redemption. /However, those who were invited made excuses and did not attend. /The place where Jesus dwells is always a banquet.

/We can go where Jesus is and participate in the grace of salvation with joy. /However, why did these people refuse to go to the banquet?

/In verse 18, one man said he bought a field and needed to go see it. /This man did not participate in the seat of grace from God because of his possessions. /It is foolish to not participate in God's banquet because of one's job or need to work for money. /Such people are foolish people.

/In verse 19, another man said he bought five yoke of oxen and he needed to go try them out. /One yoke is two oxen. /The man had five yoke of oxen, /which was ten oxen in total. /The number "ten" is a humanly number. /Therefore, this man had many businesses and was a busy man.

/It is not wrong to run a business, /but it is foolish not to follow Jesus because of one's busyness. /These people may appear to succeed in the world, /but they have failed before God.

/This is because they lost what is spiritual because of their worldly businesses. /Therefore, we believers of Jesus must follow God's word first /and then attend to our businesses and works.

/In verse 20, one man said he could not come because he just got married. /It is not a sin to get married. /However, it is foolish to not believe in Jesus /to make one's husband or wife happy.

/In Matthew 24:37-39, /the people in Noah's generation were ruined because they got married. /They lived in debauchery and gave in to their desires and perversity, and were destroyed. /This will happen in the Last Days. /Then the servant came back and reported this to his master.

/The people who were first invited rejected the invitation and did not come. /Thus, the master became angry /and told the servant to go out to the streets and alleys of the town. /The master told the servant to bring the poor, /the crippled, /the blind, /and the mute.

/They were lowly people. /They were not acknowledged by the world. /When they were invited, they immediately participated in the banquet. /The lowly, the poor, and the sick

will participate in the heaven movement.

/In verse 22, the servant told his master that there was still room. /The master told the servant to go to the roads and country lanes and bring people to fill his house. /The gospel movement now reached the Gentile nations.

/Thus, people like wolves and ostriches came to participate in the gospel banquet. /Ultimately, the lowly people and the Gentiles participated in the gospel movement. /The Jewish leaders and arrogant people who were first invited did not get to take part.

/In verses 25-35, Jesus explained the cost of being a disciple. /In today's passages, Jesus taught us how difficult the road is in being a disciple. /There are a few points about being a disciple of Jesus.

/First, one must hate his parents, wife and children, and his brothers and sisters. /To "hate" /means to hate and cut off whatever stands in the way of us following Jesus.

/It does not mean that we must hate them for no reason. /We must love our families and fulfill our responsibilities in the home. /The second point in being a disciple of Jesus /is to carry our cross and follow the Lord.

/If we do not carry our cross, we cannot follow the Lord to the end. /We cannot have the power of resurrection. /Therefore, believers must expect sufferings and endure. /The third point in being a disciple /is to give up everything we have.

/This is in verse 33. /A "tower" is build to observe the movements of one's enemies. /Believing Jesus is like building a tower. /The foundation of the tower is Jesus Christ. /The materials used to build the tower is God's word.

/When we are spiritually built by God's word, /our tower continues to grow higher. /The higher our tower gets, the closer we get to God.

/Jesus said, "Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost?" /When we build a tower, /we must first estimate the cost of building a tower. /The cost must match our skills and quantities of what we need. /We must not simply focus on making it high.

/If we do not have the skills and fail after only making the foundation, we have no choice but to stop. /Then people will mock and ridicule us. /We must carefully examine the spiritual abilities that we have at the moment. /If we calculate the cost of building a tower, /we will see that we lack many things. /Then, we will rely wholly on God. /We can build our tower when we receive power and wisdom that comes from God.

/Just as it says in verse 31, /it is the same when a king goes into battle. /He must first examine whether or not he can defeat his opponents. /He will fail if he goes out without a plan.



/We must examine our present spiritual state /and see if we can overcome sufferings in the future. /We must realize that we are lacking and then rely wholly on God. /Jesus said that there was twenty thousand men coming against the king who had ten thousand men. /This means that when the devil comes at us with temptations, /he will come with twice as much as we expect.

/Therefore, we cannot defeat the devil with our own abilities. /We must set up a plan. /The plan is to throw away our ways and receive the things that belong to God. /We will surely gain victory when we fight with the things that belong to God. /Then our abilities will grow as well.

/In verse 32, it says that if the king could not defeat his opponents, he would send a delegation and ask for terms of peace. /When we do not believe in God's power, we will fail. /We must not rely on our ways. /When we believe that we can win with the power of God, /we will gain courage to defeat our opponents with God's power.

/In verse 33, Jesus said, "In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple." /This means to give up everything in us and follow God's word. /Then we will receive God's power and grace. /Then we can become a true disciple of Jesus.

/Read verses 34-35. /Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

/The heart of salt is in its saltiness. /Salt is important because of its saltiness. /However, the salt is nothing without its saltiness. /We believers must be like salt. /Such believers will carry the cross.

/Such believers give up their possessions. /Such believers follow God's word and obey.

/Here we will conclude the thirteenth lecture on the gospel of Luke. /Thank you.