

April 8

The Kingdom Brings Down the High and Exalts the Low

I will also take of the lofty top of the cedar...I will crop off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one...under it shall dwell all birds of every wing; in the shade of its branches...I, Yahweh, have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree – Ezekiel 17:22-24

[Luke 13:18-30, Perea] He said, “What is the Kingdom of God like? To what shall I compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and put in his own garden. It grew, and became a large tree, and the birds of the sky lodged in its branches. [Ezekiel 17:23]”

Again he said, “To what shall I compare the Kingdom of God? It is like yeast, which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened.”

He went on his way through cities and villages, teaching, and traveling on to Jerusalem. One said to him, “Lord, are they few who are saved?”

He said to them, “Strive to enter in by the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will seek to enter in, and will not be able. When once the

master of the house has risen up, and has shut the door, and you begin to stand outside, and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ then he will answer and tell you, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ He will say, ‘I tell you, I don’t know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity. [Psalm 6:8]’ There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets, in the Kingdom of God, and yourselves being thrown outside. They will come from the east, west, north, and south, and will sit down in the Kingdom of God. Behold, there are some who are last who will be first, and there are some who are first who will be last.”

1. How is the Kingdom like a seed or yeast, and a shut house? Are you striving to enter?

2. If Jesus had answered you like this, would you be discouraged? Why? Who are “last”?

3. Jesus, I think of myself as first, and non-believers as last, but you are telling me that...