**“A God-Sized Vision for Spirit-Empowered Strategic Spread of the Gospel”**

**February 26th, 2017**

**Text: Luke 13:10-21; Acts 1:8**

**Keith Doyle – Lead Pastor**

**I. Introduction**

**1. Illus. George Mueller**

* A German in Bristol, England…Pastor or missionary? Orphans…
* A seemingly small beginning…a growing impact…

**2. The surprising nature of Jesus’ Kingdom and the Spirit’s work**

* He came in seeming ‘obscurity’ – prophesied
* He came with a lowly beginning as a suffering servant…**Illus.** washing feet, reputation?
* The Holy Spirit’s ‘unseen’ work (c/f John 3:6-8)
* Other promises in Scripture? How are these to be harmonized?

***Q. How will these grand promises of God’s Kingdom be fulfilled?***

**II. A Compelling Context: A Sabbath Day Healing (10-17) (‘…*he was teaching…on the***

***Sabbath*…10)**

1. **A Sabbath Miracle**
* **Matt. 13 and Mk. 4 (synoptic Gospels)**
* ‘Kingdom parable discourse’
* What were the parables? What does Jesus say about them?
* Parable = ***‘para’***, ***‘bole’*** = ***‘to throw alongside’*** – Jesus would ‘throw alongside’

a story or image from the physical world to illustrate a spiritual truth

* **Healing a Woman on the Sabbath**
* Jesus teaching in the synagogue (on the Sabbath, 10)
* The woman’s condition, ***‘…disabling spirit…’*** (18 years)
	+ **Apply:** The ‘nature’ of demonic disease (compare to c/f John 9)
* Jesus calls/heals, ***‘…you are freed…laid his hands…immediately straight…’*** (12,13).

She gives glory to God (13)

* Wonderful right? **Apply:** Enter the rule-keeper…
1. **A Sabbath Manager (Ruler)**
* ***‘Indignant’* =** Luke doesn’t mince his words
* He rudely addresses the crowd to stir them up against Jesus
	+ ***‘There are six days in which work ‘ought’ to be done…’*** (14)

He quotes the Bible! Duet 5:14

* + **Apply:**Notice what he doesn’t say…what of the woman?
* Not like ‘Jairus’ **(c/f 8:41, *‘…falling at Jesus feet…’*)**
1. **A Savior’s Mastery (15,16)**
* Jesus adds the Scripture the Ruler conveniently left out Duet.5:14
* **Simply put:** You can pick and choose your rules!
* You care more about your donkey than this woman? You care more about

a rule than her release?

 **III. A Kingdom Comparison *(‘What is the Kingdom of heaven like?…’* 18-21)**

1. **It is Like a Mustard Seed**
* **The parables message:**
* ***‘He said therefore…’*** (18) – tie back to this story to illustrate
* What is the significance of this illustration?
* **The parables meaning – The Kingdom Seen**
* A ‘grain’ of mustard, small…insignificant…unseen in the ground
* Plants or trees? The point: It’s supernatural - **‘Outward’** work of the Kingdom
	+ Small to great? The point: How the Kingdom of Christ grows/spreads; (c/f Acts 1:8)
	+ Insignificant, unexpected, marginalized; Eg…not to the strong…
	+ c/f His ministry, Lk.4:17-21; Mk.10:45
	+ c/f 1 Cor.1:25-29; Paul’s teaching ministry 1 Cor.2:1-5)
1. **It is Like Leaven – The Kingdom Unseen**
* How was leaven used in Jesus day?
* Leaven’s work: ‘Permeating’, quietly, actively, slowly consuming the whole
* The **‘Inward’** work of the Kingdom (Holy Spirit) in the world and in salvation,

individual hearts (c/f 1 Cor.2:9-16)

**IV. Application**

1. Connecting the stories, ‘Jesus’ Kingdom and the Holy Spirit’s work will begin in seemingly small, unusual ways…and grow into gradual greatness’ – (c/f Rom.15:23)
2. The Holy Spirit’s work:
	* In the Kingdom’s advance
	* In your growth in the Gospel…part of which is to create a love for Christ

and His Kingdom’s advance

* + **Apply:** Prayer…
* Mueller’s staggering story…

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