

Blessed Is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 13:10-35



Big Idea

When our expectations of what God will do don't line up with what He is really doing in our lives, we find ourselves at a fork in the road. We can either try to take Him up in our hands and manipulate Him towards our desires, or we can put ourselves in His hands and let Him shape us towards His.

(1) We Resist (vv. 10-21)

When faced with what the kingdom of God is really like we can either admit that our expectations were wrong, open ourselves up to God, let Him correct and realign us, let Him deal with any sin that's gotten us off, let Him rearrange any of our plans and misplaced desires and hopes; or we can double-down on our interpretation of things, resist His attempts to help, demand that things go as we expected and want them to go, reject the clear words of God, grow increasingly out of touch with reality as God defines it, and ultimately end up missing His kingdom as it goes on by without us.

(2) We Miss (vv. 22-30)

(1) Organic (vv. 22-23)—First we see that they miss the organic nature of it. That I think is what's brought out there in this man's question in v. 23: "Lord, will those who are saved be few?"

(2) Internal (vv. 24-27)—Two times Jesus says it, in v. 25 and in v. 26: "I do not know where you come from." "I don't care if you have the external stuff—the conformity to the law, the religious ritual, the Jewish ethnicity, I don't care that you ate and drank in My presence or listened as I taught in the streets, all I care about is where your heart is in relation to all that, in relation to Me. Did you do receive Me?!"

(3) Universal (vv. 28-30)—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob. These are the patriarchs in Israel. To each one of them, God reiterated His covenant and promise—that the nation that came from them would be blessed by Him so that they might ultimately mediate that blessing to the nations, to all the families of the earth. That's where the kingdom of God has always been going. From Israel . . . to the nations.

(3) We Bless (vv. 31-35)

Sadly, it does seem that many in Israel at this point will reject Him. As Jesus says in v. 35a: "Behold, your house is forsaken." But, amazing, surprisingly, our text ends with a glimmer of hope for Israel (and us really). In v. 35, He's quoting from Psa 118:26. It's a blessing that was spoken over pilgrims upon their entrance into the holy land. The context in particular is of worshipers coming into the temple, probably at a time of religious festival, and the gates are opening to them. In light of other texts like Luke 21:24 and Rom 11:11-32, I'm inclined to think Jesus is referring to sometime near or at His second coming, when ethnic Israel will turn and bless Jesus as their Messiah and Savior. Just think of it! They kill Him. And He takes that murder and makes it the means of their salvation, their homecoming. And He does the same for us.

Reflection Questions



- Would you say that you have been in a place of surrender lately? Are you like clay in His hands? This is a question we could ask ourselves each and every day. Jesus says we must take up our cross *daily* and follow Him (Luke 9:23) precisely because we are prone to shrug it off from one day to the next. Where have you been prone to shrug your cross off lately?
- Read Luke 13:24-30 again. What stands out to you? What do you find frightening? What can you learn from? In what ways have you twisted the Scriptures to support your own selfish ends? Have you ever imagined God was on your side only to find out that He wasn't?
- Read the whole of Psa 118. Why do you think Jesus quotes from this Psalm in v. 35? How do you interpret this with reference to Israel? What does it tell us about the heart of our God?!