

Time Audit Chronicles: Healing on the Sabbath and the Mustard Seed (Luke 13:10-21)

Prologue: God’s Kingdom Grows from Small Beginnings

The Presswood family was nestled comfortably in their living room, surrounded by the soft hum of evening. Ariel had just finished reading **Luke 13:10-21**, where Jesus heals a woman on the Sabbath and teaches two parables: the parable of the **mustard seed** and the **leaven**. Both parables illustrate how God’s **Kingdom** grows from small, seemingly insignificant beginnings into something great. Ariel sat in reflection, thinking about how God’s work is often hidden in the quiet, small things we may overlook. Alice, still holding Mr. Fluffernutter, was pretending to plant seeds, eagerly watching them “grow” into a mighty tree.

“Daddy,” Ariel asked, “Why did Jesus heal the woman on the Sabbath, and why did He use the mustard seed to talk about the Kingdom? What does all this mean?”

Ryan smiled, understanding the depth of Ariel’s question. “That’s a great question, Ariel. Jesus healing the woman on the Sabbath was a powerful demonstration of **God’s Kingdom** breaking through human traditions and religious rules. The Pharisees were so focused on keeping the Sabbath that they missed the real purpose—**mercy** and **healing**. Jesus showed them that God’s Kingdom is about **compassion** and **restoration**, not just rules. And the parables of the mustard seed and leaven teach us that God’s Kingdom starts small, but it grows in ways we can’t always see, transforming everything it touches.”

Ariel thought about this for a moment. “So, the Kingdom of God isn’t about following rules or looking powerful—it’s about **love, mercy, and growth**, even when it starts small.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Let’s use the **Time Audit Machine** to go back and see Jesus’ actions and teachings in this powerful moment.”

The Journey Begins: Jesus Heals a Woman on the Sabbath (Luke 13:10-13)

The Time Audit Machine hummed, and with a flash of light, the family found themselves in a **synagogue** on the Sabbath day. The room was filled with people, and Jesus stood teaching when He saw a **woman** who had been crippled for eighteen years. She was bent over and unable to straighten herself. Seeing her, Jesus called her forward and said, “**Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.**” (Luke 13:12).

Ariel looked around, noticing the reverence in the air. “It must have been a sacred moment, but I wonder how the people felt when Jesus healed her on the Sabbath.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “In Jewish tradition, no work was allowed on the Sabbath, so healing was seen as a violation of the Sabbath law. But Jesus didn’t see healing as work—it was a **restoration** of God’s will for the woman’s life. By healing her, He was showing that **God’s mercy** and **restoration** are far more important than ritualistic rules.”

The Religious Leaders' Reaction: Outward Obedience vs. True Mercy (Luke 13:14-16)

When the **synagogue ruler** saw what had happened, he was upset, not because the woman had been healed, but because it was the Sabbath. He told the crowd, “**There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.**” (Luke 13:14).

Ariel frowned. “The synagogue ruler was more upset about the **rule** being broken than about the woman being healed. How could he miss the importance of what Jesus did?”

Ryan sighed. “The ruler was so focused on **outward obedience** to the law that he missed the **heart** of the law. The law was meant to bring life and freedom, not oppression. Jesus pointed out the hypocrisy by asking, ‘**Ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?**’ (Luke 13:16). Jesus was showing them that the true purpose of the Sabbath was to set people free, not to bind them in tradition.”

Ariel nodded. “So, Jesus was saying that God’s mercy and compassion are more important than sticking strictly to rules. **Healing** was the true Sabbath work—bringing freedom to the oppressed.”

The Parable of the Mustard Seed: The Kingdom of God Starts Small (Luke 13:18-19)

After the healing, Jesus began teaching the crowds with a parable about the **mustard seed**. He asked them, “**What is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it.**” (Luke 13:18-19).

Ariel’s eyes widened. “So, the Kingdom of God is like a tiny mustard seed that grows into a great tree? It’s like something small becoming something huge!”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “The **mustard seed** starts small, but over time, it grows into something much bigger than anyone expects. Jesus was teaching that **God’s Kingdom**, though it might seem small or insignificant at first, will grow and have a **transformative impact** on the world. It’s not about outward appearances or grand beginnings—it’s about **faithful growth** and **change** that happens quietly and organically.”

Ariel thought about it for a moment. “So, even though we might not always see it, God’s Kingdom is growing all around us—through small acts of faith, kindness, and love.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “God’s work isn’t always about big, dramatic events. It starts small, often hidden, but over time, it changes lives and transforms the world in ways we might not even realize.”

The Parable of the Leaven: The Kingdom’s Influence in the World (Luke 13:20-21)

Jesus continued with another parable, this time comparing the Kingdom of God to **leaven** (yeast) that a woman took and hid in a large amount of flour, and eventually, the whole batch of dough was leavened.

“It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.” (Luke 13:21)

Ariel smiled. “So, the Kingdom of God is like leaven—it starts small and gradually spreads until everything is changed.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Leaven works quietly, almost unnoticed, but it has a **powerful effect** on the whole batch of dough. This is how God’s Kingdom works—it may seem small at first, but once it starts to take root, it **transforms** everything it touches. This is a reminder that even the smallest acts of love, kindness, and faith can have a profound impact on the world.”

Ariel nodded. “So, no matter how small or insignificant our actions might seem, they can be a part of **God’s bigger plan** to change the world.”

Reflection: From Small Beginnings to Great Impact

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, and the family sat quietly, reflecting on the powerful teaching they had just witnessed. Ariel turned to her father, her heart full of the lessons Jesus had shared. Alice, still holding Mr. Fluffernutter, was pretending to bake bread, watching it rise with excitement.

“Jesus really shows us that the Kingdom of God grows in ways we can’t always see,” Ariel said softly. “It starts small, like a mustard seed or a little bit of leaven, but over time, it has a huge impact.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “The Kingdom of God is at work in ways we don’t always notice. It’s not always about big, dramatic events—it’s about **small, faithful acts** of love, justice, and mercy that **build up** God’s Kingdom. When we live faithfully, even in small things, we are participating in something much bigger than ourselves.”

Ariel smiled. “And even if we don’t see the results right away, God’s Kingdom is still growing and changing the world, just like the mustard seed growing into a big tree.”

“That’s right,” Ryan said. “God’s work is always moving forward, even when it seems small or unnoticed. And when we stay faithful, we get to be part of it.”

Takeaway: The Kingdom Grows Quietly but Powerfully

In **Luke 13:10-21**, Jesus teaches us that **God’s Kingdom** grows from small, seemingly insignificant beginnings into something powerful and transformative. Through the parables of the **mustard seed** and **leaven**, Jesus shows us that God’s work may start quietly, but over time, it grows and has a profound impact on the world. Just like the healing on the Sabbath, God’s Kingdom is about **restoration**, **compassion**, and **mercy**, not rules or rituals. We are called to participate in God’s work, knowing that our **small acts of faith** can make a big difference in His Kingdom. Even if we can’t always see it, God is at work in ways that change the world

, and we are part of that process.