

**Dig Deeper @Home – “The [Un]Kingdom”
Complement to sermon on 3/31/2019 – “Unglamorous”**

ICE BREAKER – ask these to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. If you had to give up one of your five senses, which would it be and why?
2. Would you rather have 4 arms or eyes in the back of your head and why?

MEMORIZE – Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor

READ – Read Luke 13

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does this passage reveal about God? About humanity?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life?
3. Luke 13: 1-5 and Luke 13: 6-9 are parallel accounts. This means they help to explain each other.
 - a. What is the main message of these accounts?
 - b. According to these, how do we know if we’ve truly repented? (hint: compare verses 5 and 9)
 - c. According to Jesus, what is the relationship between the amount of suffering we experience to the amount of sin we commit?
 - i. Why is this important?
 - ii. How are you sometimes guilty of believing the amount you suffer is connected to the amount you sin?
4. Read again Luke 13: 22-30
 - a. What is the main point of this teaching?
 - b. What does this have to do with the call to repent in v5?
5. Read again Luke 13: 31-35
 - a. What tactic do the Pharisees use to try to get Jesus to leave?
 - b. What is Jesus’ response? In other words, how does he stay focused in the midst of the Pharisees trying to use fear to get him to leave?
 - c. What is Jesus’ ultimate response to the rejection he gets from the religious leaders in Jerusalem?
 - i. Is this how you respond when people reject you?
 - ii. How can you respond with more tears and compassion like Jesus?

Experiential: Repent

Much of Luke 13 is about repenting. Repenting is to change one's direction. We often confuse repenting and confessing and think they are the same. They are connected but are not the same. In fact, repenting begins with confessing. But if we stop there, we miss out on true repentance. Jesus tells us what true repentance brings in Luke 13:9 ... fruit. Good fruit. Take a deep look at yourself. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring things to mind that need to be confessed and confess them (and not just to yourself ... but to a trusted follower of Jesus). Then, identify the new direction you want to align yourself with and pray for the Holy Spirit to change you. For example, one might identify impatience as something to turn from. So they confess that to a friend. Then that person identifies the new direction they want to go: they realize their impatience comes from seeing themselves as more important than others ... so they align themselves with God's word, which says to treat others as more important than yourself. So, repenting is identifying what you are turning from AND what you are aligning to. Take time this week and repent.

Testimony Time

Share testimony of repenting and the fruit that the Holy Spirit now brings forth in you.

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

Build your Kingdom Here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcSWpVKKMcs>

A Mighty Fortress is our God – Mennonite Hymnal #325

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Father, your ways are not our ways and your thoughts are not our thoughts. But we ask that in your mercy and grace and by the power of you Holy Spirit, align our ways to your ways and our thoughts to your thoughts. Give us courage this week to share your unexpected grace, love and mercy as we go. Amen.