

The narrow way

Luke 13:22-30

He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, ²⁴“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ ²⁶Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ ²⁷But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ ²⁸In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. ²⁹And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

- Have you ever assumed you were on a guest list and later found out you were not?
- Have you ever shared a relationship you thought was close to later find out you were not?

Luke 13:22-24

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- Are you more focused on others salvation than yours?
- As usual Jesus turns the spot light on their hearts.
- What does it mean to strive to do something?
- What are you striving for?
- What is **the** narrow door?

John 10:9-10 (ESV)

I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 14:6 (ESV)

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 10:14-16 (ESV)

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Luke 13:24

“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

- Are you striving to know and grow in your intimacy with the Lord Jesus?

- There will come a Day when many will seek to enter and will not be able.
- Are you procrastinating?
- Are you deceived?

Matthew 7:21-23 (ESV)

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

- Are you building your house on the rock?
- Are you striving to enter Christ Jesus?
- When is it too late?

Luke 13:25

When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’

- Who is the Master of the house?
- Jesus won’t let a stranger in.
- Many who are invited waited too long to respond!
- Are you striving to know Him?
- Have you responded to His invitation to come?
- What are you waiting for?

Reader - Matthew 22:1-9

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, ³ and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other servants, saying, “Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.” ⁵ But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷ The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his servants, “The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’

- Why did they wait?
 - Went off to other things.
 - Worries, wealth and pleasures of this world
- The narrow way is hard and we seek ease.

Matthew 7:13-14 (ESV)

“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

Luke 13:26-27

Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ ²⁷ But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’

- They waited due to a false sense of security!
- Have you been in the presence of God without experiencing the presence of God?
- Are you a fan or a follower?
- Are you striving to know and grow in Him?
- The Lord had given Israel many chances.

Luke 10:13-16 (ESV)

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades. ¹⁶ “The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

- Have you rejected His invitation to Life?
- Why is God our Father so patient?
- There will come a great and dreadful Day.
- The Door will soon be shut!

Luke 13:28-30

In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. ²⁹ And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

- Israel considered themselves first.
- Arrogance kept them from humbling themselves before God.
- Are you still in 1st place in your life?
- Do you consider yourselves first when your last?
- They were trusting in religion to save them and Jesus was offering them a relationship with God!
- Don't delay trust Jesus today!

Hebrews 4:6-7 (ESV)

Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, ⁷ again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”

- Have you ever waited too long and missed out on an opportunity?

Luke 13:24

“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

Invitation / Prayer

