

Luke 13:22-30

BG – Luke 9:51 “set His face to go to Jerusalem”; Ch. 13

**V22- Teaching; journeying toward Jerusalem (a few months left)**

- To bear our sins on the tree 1 Peter 4:24
- Isaiah 53 – He will satisfy God’s divine wrath all the law on our behalf
- The last days drive His ministry and His words – challenges the culture (Jewish bloodline) in their thinking as the time rapidly approaches for Him to be nailed to the cross.
- v1-5 Repent or Perish; v6-9 Barren fig tree; v10-17 Heals woman crippled for 18 years and challenges the ruler of the synagogue; Kingdom of God is like v18-19 Mustard Seed; v20-21 Leaven
- He tells them this path is one of faith not heritage

**V23 – “one said”, likely a Jew that is knowledgeable about the law; “Lord are there few who will be saved?”**

- Question that is asked today.
- Everyone is an authority on eternity
  - o The “authority of them” “All roads lead to God”, there isn’t just “one way”
  - o God is understanding, accepting, PC, a Universalist
  - o All roads do lead to God – God either dispenses judgment or grace – **Rev. 20:11-15** Great White Throne
  - o Our culture has its own opinion(s) about who God is and how we get to Him
  - o Broad – Tolerance
- The man asking is likely a Jew who possibly heard Jesus’s teachings and saw His miracles.
- This isn’t a random question.
  - o There is a sense that being a Jew of the bloodline of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob gives him a privileged status and entry into heaven.
  - o He’s not born again
- He addresses Him as “Lord” a tribute to who Jesus was
  - o Seems to be sincere and genuine – same way we should approach God
- His opinion doesn’t supersede the one he is asking
- No one has an excuse. **John 16:7-8**
- Jesus says to “them”

**V24 – Jesus answers, but doesn’t – “Strive to enter through the narrow gate (door), for many...seek to enter and will not be able.”**

- Don’t speculate/worry about others in the sense of their salvation, rather your own
- John **10:7-10**
  - o “Narrow” **Matthew 7:13-14** – compared to % of all humanity “few” saved
  - o **Mark 12:34**
- No one “strives” into heaven. Not works, rather sincere, genuine, earnest
  - o Not narrow to exclusive or to exclude, but rather narrow to exclusivity.
  - o Jews thought they were exclusive
  - o Term is used in other parts of the (1 Cor. 9:25) as athlete in training, agōnizomai (fight, contend)
- Simple - Single – one way – one finish line
- People want to make up their own rules as it related to eternity, but we don’t do that with anything else
  - o Travel (Vernal); Sports (points based on getting into the end zone, not yards gain); Medical (prescription); Airplanes (try landing on a Mesa instead of airport); Surgery (take out other things)
- People strive for all kinds of things that are temporal or temporary – jobs, sports
  - o There are important things that we should be doing (Godly spouse/parent, ministry)
  - o But the central thing is that there is one way to forgiveness/heaven and never go to hell

**V25-27 – v24 probably should run right into v25 (no period) “When once the master of the house has risen up and shut the door saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open for us,’ and He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know you, where you are from,’ then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.’ But He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.’ “**

- There is a limit of opportunities
- No such thing as “later” only “too late”
- The door someday will close – like Noah’s ark (120 years)
  - o Similar to **Read Matt. 25:1-13** – 10 virgins – wise and foolish
- Jewish culture said you had the right to close the door to a feast by the host if you were late
  - o Familiarity with Jesus will not count when God's kingdom arrives and people rush to be a part of it.
  - o When the door is closed, the time for salvation will have passed, and they will "not be able" to enter (13:24).
  - o While many will claim to have eaten with him and listened to his teaching, they had not turned to him in faith for salvation.
    - Such people will be utterly rejected, for Jesus will simply say, "I don't know you."

- These words will be the final rejection on those who rejected him.
- They will be sent *away* from God, the kingdom, and all that is good—sent to be among *evildoers*.
- Only two groups will be at the final judgment—those who by faith accepted the salvation Jesus offered, and those who rejected it.
- Preaching to the choir? Tell others about the “way”
  - What about those in our circles of influence
  - We are **infected** and **affected** by the things going on in the **horizontal** that we lose sight of the finality of the **vertical**

- **Jesus makes clear that the way of salvation is open to all.**

- No one is excluded by birth or background (13:29).
- Yet salvation doesn't happen merely because of loose association with Jesus. Jesus - Read **Luke 5:31-32**
- We must come to Jesus on his terms, not our own.
- Jesus requires action, repentance, from those who desire to be his followers.
- As we present Christ to others, we must stress the importance of repentance.
- As we deal with those who have been in the church for many years, we must help them see that associating with Christians will not substitute for true faith and repentance.

**V28 – “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, and yourselves thrust out.”**

- Many of these “workers of iniquity” are Jews expecting to be in God's kingdom because of birthright
  - Door shut, sent away, intense sorrow (*weeping and gnashing of teeth*) – *Hell!*
- Looking in at the ancestors they had depended for salvation—the patriarchs *Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*.
  - Also see *all the prophets*, many who had been killed for speaking God's word
  - They will be in *the Kingdom of God* because they loved and obeyed Him
  - They had not seen the Messiah, but loved, believed and trusted God, His promises and that he would do what He said He would do.
  - As a result, they were received into the kingdom.
- By contrast, many of these Jewish people, *did* have the opportunity to eat and drink with and then listen to the teachings of the Messiah himself (13:26), subsequently rejected him.
  - For such rejection they would be *thrown out* of the kingdom.

**V29-30 – “They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last”**

- God's kingdom will include people from every part of the world.
  - Israel's rejection of Jesus as Messiah would not stop God's plan.
- True Israel includes all people who believe in God.
- Jesus promised that *people will come from all over the world, and take their places in the kingdom of God*.
- Gentiles in God's kingdom had been prophesied
  - This would shock a Jewish audience to hear of the Gentiles' being involved in God's kingdom at all.
- Important fact - Luke stresses was directing his Gospel to Gentiles (**Read Galatians 3:6-9**).
- Worse for these Jews was that some of them might *not* enter into the kingdom
- Surprises in God's kingdom. Born Again John 3:1-17
  - Est. 40,000 rabbis, 22,000 priests, center Aaronic priests
  - Middle of these was Sanhedrin and THE teacher (not a sinner by the day's standards)
  - Some despised will be honored; some influential people left outside the gates.
  - In God's eyes “great” or “last” people on this earth are virtually ignored by the rest of the world.
  - God looks to our heart our earthly popularity, status, wealth, heritage, or power
    - Our commitment to Christ.
- How do your values match what the Bible tells you to value?
  - Have you accepted the narrow way of Jesus to Jesus?
  - Have you become Lukewarm in your walk to allow other ways to be acceptable? **Rev. 3**
  - Are you a narrow minded Christian?
- Put God in first place, and you will join people from all over the world who will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of heaven.
- **Rev. 21:6-8, 24**
- The question is not “are there few who are saved”, rather “are you saved”