

Luke 13:22-30
"The Narrow Gate"

Memory verses:
John 10:9, 14:6

Summary: Jesus teaches that the way to the Kingdom of God is through a narrow gate and many who thought they knew the way in will be cast out.

To ponder: Why are our churches filled with people who only follow Jesus on Sunday morning if it's convenient? Who is really saved?

Verse 22: *And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.*

- Still on His last trip to Jerusalem. Keep in mind that His audience is Jews.

Verse 23a: *Then said one unto him, "Lord, are there few that be saved?"*

- Despite the large crowds, there were only a few loyal followers.
- "You were saved, you are being saved, and you will be saved."
- App: What does it mean to be saved?

Verses 23b-24: *And he said unto them, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able."*

- App: What is the "broad way that leads to destruction"? (Mat. 7:13-14)
- Straight – *stenos* – narrow, obstacles on both sides.
- Gate – *pulē* – entrance through a wall to a city or temple. Not the same word as "door".
- Strive – *agōnizomai* – struggle, fight, labor fervently.
 - App: If we are saved, what are we struggling for?

Verse 25: *"When once the master of the house is risen up, and has shut the door, and you begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open unto us;' and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence you are:"*

- Shut – *apokleiō* – "closed fully". Used only once in the New Testament.
- There are no second chances once the door is shut. No amount of striving will get you in.
- App: What (or who) is the gate? What does it mean to be shut? When will (or when did) this happen? When will it re-open?

Luke 9:51

Mat. 19:23-26

Mark 16:16
John 3:3,16-17
Rom. 10:9-11
Eph. 2:8-9

Mat. 7: 13-14

Luke 7:12
Acts 3:10

I Tim. 6:12
II Tim. 4:7-8

Mat. 25:10-12

Gen. 7:11-16
Isa. 55:6
Heb. 3:7-8,
9:27
John 10:9,
14:6

Verses 26-27: *“Then shall you begin to say, ‘We have eaten and drunk in your presence, and you have taught in our streets.’ But he shall say, ‘I tell you, I know you not whence you are; depart from me, all you workers of iniquity.’”*

- They thought He knew them, but He did not. Scariest words in the Bible.
- Workers of iniquity – if they knew Him they would have done what He said.
- App: Does Jesus know you? How do you know? How do you get to know God?

Verse 28-29: *“There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.”*

- In context, Jesus is talking about Jews whose faith is in their heritage and tradition rather than in God.
 - App: Why will there be weeping? Why will there be gnashing of teeth?
- The Marriage Supper will include Jews and Gentiles – God’s plan for bringing the whole earth back to the Father by means of Israel and the Messiah.

Verse 30: *“And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.”*

- Parable of the Vineyard Workers – Matthew 20:1-16
- App: Who is Jesus talking about?

Lesson: Jesus is the Way into the kingdom of God for Jews and Gentiles, and both must know Him and be known by Him.

Mat. 7:21-27

Exo. 24:9-11

Isa. 29:13

James 2:20

I Cor. 8:3

II Cor. 1:21-22

Eph. 1:12-14

Mat. 8:5-12

Mat. 3:7-12

John 8:31-45

Luke 14:15-24

Gen. 28:14

Isa. 49:1-6

Psalm 107:1-3

Mat. 19:27-30,

21:28-32

Mark 9:33-35,

10:28-31

II Timothy 2:9