

Theme: It is not enough to know *about* Jesus to enter his Kingdom. We must strive to truly *know* him and enter by that narrow door- or find ourselves shut out. (But see how the savior grieves for those who would not come in.)

Background: On His way to Jerusalem – but not a direct route.

Introduction: Movie – “Monsters Inc.” - A door to every child in the world. But only one door matters if you want to get “home”.

I. A Narrow Door

A. An important question? (or foolish speculation? 2 Timothy 2:23) (23)

1. Jews only? No gentiles?
2. Only a few of the crowds that followed Jesus?
3. Still asked today?
 - Many answer “all”
 - Jesus answers “few” (Matthew 7:14)

B. Finding the door (24)

1. Making it personal
 - It’s not “how many” but “who”
2. Striving to enter
 - a. Jesus *is* the door (John 10:9)
 - b. Entering *in Him* (Ephesians 1:4,13; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:9)
 - c. Squeezing through
 - Hard work (Matthew 7:14)
 - What can you take (Matthew 16:25; Mark 8:34,35)

C. The way *is narrow!*

1. Not the broad path of Matthew 7:13,14
2. Modern man revolts against this
 - I choose whatever *I* like.
3. Many doors - one destination?
 - Close to the truth
 - All but ONE lead to the same place
4. One door to life
 - Only way through the narrow door is *in Him!*
 - Only Jesus makes way for forgiveness of sin

II. Missing the Door

A. Shut out?

1. Many will “seek” (24b, 25)
 - a. Door already shut
 - They started too late
 - b. Thought they were *in*
 - The master closed the door
2. They knew *about* Jesus –
 - a. We know you, Jesus (26)
 - b. I don’t know you!
 - No relationship with, no commitment to Jesus
3. You must truly *know* Jesus
 - Or he won’t recognize you (27b) (John 17:3)
 - Intimate, personal relationship

B. Despair

- Clearly speaking to the Jews (Hard Message!) (28)
- Reality of Hell

C. Dismay

- Gentiles streaming in (29)
- Places reversed (30)

III. The Savior’s Sorrow (31-35)

A. He must finish His work

1. Herod is no threat (32)
2. The time is short (33)
 - Today and tomorrow = an indefinite but limited period of time
 - 3rd day – finish my course (reach my goal)
 - Jesus is neither frightened nor deterred from His work/calling
3. To perish in Jerusalem - going there to die! To be crucified!

B. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! (34)

1. Grieving over his people
2. Judgment is about to fall (35)
 - Your house is forsaken!
 - Clearly, the temple.
3. He will return
 - And you *will* confess Him as Lord

IV. The Open Door

A. The door is open *Now*

- Don’t harden your hearts!
- Don’t delay but believe (John 3:36; 5:24; 6:47)

B. Strive to *know Him* and enter the greater life through the *narrow* door.