

The Strait Gate of Jesus Christ

Luke 13:22-30

(22) And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.

(23) Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,

(24) Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

(25) When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye 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 ye are:

(26) Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.

(27) But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all *ye* workers of iniquity.

(28) There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you *yourselves* thrust out.

(29) 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.

(30) And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.

Introduction

As Jesus is travelling between cities, he is teaching as he travels and a person asked him a question, which probably occurred often in Jesus' ministry. The question that was asked to Jesus is "Lord, are there few that be saved?"

- I'm not sure why that this question was asked but they had probably seen that the more Jesus preached and taught, his message became more offensive and people walked away.
- Whenever Jesus is asked a question, he will first give the answer to the more important matter, instead of first tackling, "Are there few that will be saved?" Jesus asks the crowd, "Are you saved?"

Strive to Enter In

(24) Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

- Strive = struggle to compete for a prize (Olympic athlete trains and prepares to ensure that they win), contend with the adversary, endeavor to accomplish something.
 - Put all of your energy, push through the obstacles, and do not quit in your pursuit to enter the strait gate.

The Strait Gate is Narrow

Matthew 7:13-14 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: (14) Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

- The struggle, the energy, the perseverance that Jesus is talking about is finding the right gate to enter, the straight gate and not the wide gate.

- Jesus frequently talks about a door when he talks about himself concerning salvation:
 - John 10 (“I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved” but “he that entereth not by the door...but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.”
 - John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
 - Jesus teaches the same thing using different metaphors, if you want eternal life, if you want the truth, you must enter in “the door,” “the straight gate,” and “the way.”
 - There are not many different ways to heaven, there is only one entrance point and that is through Jesus Christ, which is narrow!
- If Jesus is the straight gate, then read verse 24 again, “strive to enter in at [Jesus Christ]”
 - There are many religions with different paths to paradise, eternity, reincarnation, etc. and they each have different methods. There are many religions involving Jesus Christ and many of them are Jesus plus something else.
 - Striving for Jesus Christ does not mean works:

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.

- It is not Jesus Christ, plus certain rituals or Jesus plus anything that you and I can do ourselves, Jesus Christ lived a sinless life (which we could not do) and he died on the cross for our sins.
 - The Jews that were walking with Jesus that day thought that salvation came from works, that you had to be circumcised, follow a bunch of religious rules and that would secure you a place in heaven.
 - There is nothing that you and I can do to earn our salvation, it is a gift from God!

Many Will Be Lost Because they Waited Too Late

(24) **Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.**

(25) **When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye 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 ye are:**

- Jesus says at the end of verse 24 that many will seek to enter in and shall not be able, then he explains it in verse 25 with an illustration.
 - Many of the Jews in that day lived in a one room house that had two levels, the lower level, then a raised upper platform, where the family slept. In the morning, when the family woke up, they would open the door to bring in fresh air and let everyone know that they were awake and the door would remain open all day long. They never closed it until night came and it was time to go to sleep, then the father (the master of the house) would bring in all the animals to

sleep on the lower level and would close the door, which told his neighbors that they had gone to sleep and not to bother them.

- Jesus is saying that many people will seek to enter the gate of Jesus Christ after the door has closed, they waited too late.
- Such a sad picture of those banging on the door after it was too late, just like the people in Noah's day, who rushed towards the ark as the floods began to come, but God had already shut the door to the ark and they faced the judgment of God.

The Lord's Response

(25) When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye 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 ye are:

(26) Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.

(27) But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all *ye* workers of iniquity.

- The ones that are too late banging on the door will plead with Jesus, open the door to us, and his answer "I know you not whence ye are." I don't know you, I never had a personal relationship with you.
 - V26 – but we ate and drank with you, you taught in our streets...but Jesus, we came to the church, we attended services. We went to the Mother's Day dinner, I was a pretty good person, I helped my parents when they got older, surely you will open the door of heaven for me.
 - "I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity." You are a sinner, you never came to me for forgiveness in your lifetime, depart from me I never knew you.

The Punishment

(28) There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you *yourselves* thrust out.

(29) 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.

- If you do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ, then you will be cast into hell for eternity, which is a place of pain and suffering, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
 - You may be thinking, I know more people in hell, so I would rather go there and I am here to tell you that hell is an awful place and the Bible explains a rich man that went to hell and the first thing that he did was ask for mercy, just a drop of water to cool his tongue in the flames, but there was none given.
 - There will be no beer in heaven, no parties, and the rich man also asked that warning would be sent to his five brothers to testify to them lest they also come to this place of torment.

- If you have a loved one or friend in hell, they would give everything to warn you not to come there, it is a place of darkness, pain and torment and in that story and in this passage, the people in hell can see heaven, but can never go there.

Lord, are there few that be saved?

Many will come from every direction, every country to heaven because they trusted in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

Revelation 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

- John saw a great multitude in heaven, many will be saved through Jesus Christ, but Jesus warned that many will miss the opportunity because they waited too late after the door was closed.

Live is Brief

(James 4:14) *Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*

Life is Uncertain

(Proverbs 27:1) *Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.*

Death is Sure

(Hebrews 9:27) *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

Christ may appear at any moment

(Matthew 24:44) Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

No escape for procrastinators

(Hebrews 2:3) *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*;*

It's Not too Late today!

(Romans 10:13) For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.