

Narrow Door

4-14-19

Luke 13:22-24 (ESV)

²² He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³ And 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.”**

The only way to understand this section is to understand what the Narrow Door means! Jesus clearly says:

John 10:9 (ESV)

I am the door.

With this understanding that the Narrow Door is Jesus, Jesus tells us what this door leads to:

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.”**

Jesus the Narrow Door is the only way to God! Therefore Jesus deserves our full attention.

Luke 13:23-24a (ESV)

²³ And 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.”**

***Strive* is a word denoting whole-hearted action.**

Strive is a technical term for competing in athletic games, and from it we get our word 'agonize'. This is not a half-hearted effort. This does not mean that human achievement merits entrance into the kingdom: this is the attitude of one's mind. Notice the people ask **"how many"** will enter, but Jesus doesn't answer how many, Jesus tells them **"who"** will enter. The "who" are those who wholeheartedly seek Jesus, the Narrow Door! However for others:

Luke 13:24b (ESV)

For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

The *many* who will be unable to enter are those who try **too late** or those who **vacillate** or those who believe there are **many ways** and never find the truth. There is significance difference between, *will seek*, and the present focus to, *Strive*. **Those who strive now enter now.** There is not any indication that genuine seekers find themselves excluded from the kingdom. However, when the door of opportunity is finally shut it will be too late.

Jesus is going to give us some harsh facts. Facts are our friends! **Facts don't create something; they just reveal truth.** Facts help us make good decisions; Jobs, schools, Investments, and understand End Times! Therefore we need to rejoice that Jesus is giving us facts.

Luke 13:25-27 (ESV)

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.'

²⁶ 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!'

Once the time for decision has passed, attempts to enter into the Narrow Door will be futile. When the Door is shut, Jesus as the Son of Man will reply to all those wishing to enter, "I don't know you!" Superficial "Familiarity" with Jesus will be of no benefit.

Luke 13:28 (ESV)

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.

Jesus' rejection will lead these people to weeping and grinding of teeth. However, Jesus' salvation also will bring joy all around the world.

Luke 13:29 (ESV)

And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God.

The least likely will be the most honored. The last to hear the gospel will become the first (in honor and status), while the first to hear the gospel (many religiously persons) will become the last (in honor and status in the kingdom).

Luke 13:30 (ESV)

Behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.

The Narrow Door is Jesus!

1 Timothy 2:5–6 (ESV)

⁵ For there is one God, and **there is one mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all.

The Narrow Door is a free Gift!

Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; **it is the gift of God**, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Therefore wholeheartedly embrace Jesus, the Narrow Door!

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.