

Luke 13:22-30 – Strive to Enter the Kingdom of God

Introduction

1. *Love and Friendship* by Jane Austen
2. Persevere in your Christian walk and fight the good fight of faith (**Gal 6**)
3. Running is difficult – you get winded, your sides hurt, etc. – but it is healthy to do it

Main Idea: Striving to enter into the Kingdom of God is by God's grace alone. Those few who repent of their sins and believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins are those who strive, and the Kingdom of God will not be kept from you.

The Situation (Luke 13:22)

1. The growth of the Kingdom of God between the first & second advents
2. Jesus has set His face toward Jerusalem where He will die for sinners

The Saved Are Few (Luke 13:23)

1. An individual has a perceptive question – will there be many or few in the Kingdom of God?
 - a. The crowd following Jesus are not necessarily committed to Him
 - b. Universalism, the idea everyone will be saved in the end, is false
2. The Bible teaches that only a few will be redeemed
 - a. A remnant in the Old Testament out of the many
 - b. Many are called, but few are chosen (**Matthew 22:14**)
 - c. The broad road to destruction is traversed by many (**Matt 7:13-14**)
3. Jesus does not give a direct answer to this individual, but instead points out a much more important issue: *Are you among the few who believe?*

Strive by Grace! To Enter the Narrow Door (Luke 13:23b-24)

1. Striving means to agonize, compete, struggle, fight, labor, exert, strain every nerve (**1 Cor 9:25, Col 4:12, 1 Tim 6:12, 2 Tim 4:7**)
2. The object of the striving is the narrow door
 - a. The narrowness is as narrow as the Lordship of Christ, repentance from Sin, and faith in Christ
 - b. Forsaking all other lords in your life is required
3. Is striving to enter the narrow door a work that you do to be saved?
 - a. We are justified by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ (**See John 6:44, 65**)
 - b. Striving is a good thing and it is a command like repent of sin and believe on Christ (**Mark 1:15**)
 - c. Faith and repentance are a grace given by God, just as striving to enter into the Kingdom of God is; we strive by grace
4. The Lord commands us to strive, & by grace the Lord gives us the ability to strive; striving is *proof* you are graced by God & failure to is *proof* you are not
5. Striving implies struggle – through sin, doubt, temptation; but by grace the believer overcomes anything that stands between him and the Lord

6. Striving sees Jesus as the greater treasure than what the world offers
7. Striving involves denying self and dying for Christ daily (**Luke 9:23-25**)
8. Striving is believing Christ died for your sins, acknowledging you still deal with sin in your soul (**Romans 7:18-22**)
9. Striving is imperfect and only possible by God's grace

Salvation Is Today! Now! (Luke 13:25, 28b, 29)

1. Salvation is a limited opportunity where the door can be closed by the Master upon death, the return of Christ, or judicial hardening of the heart in unbelief (**Hebrews 9:27, 12:15-17**)
2. The Kingdom of God is like a banquet or wedding feast (**Matt 25:1-13**)
 - a. Rest, leisure, reclining at table, joy, and eternal pleasures are experienced in the Messianic Kingdom
 - b. Seek joy and pleasure, seek the Kingdom of God & Righteousness

Sorted Excuses (Luke 13:25-28)

1. There will be an inevitable conclusion to entering the Kingdom of God
 - a. No one knows when the door will be shut
 - b. Repentance of Sin and faith in Christ must occur now
2. The response of the unbeliever is familiarity with Jesus, but lack of a true relationship with Him (**Ex: Judas, see Matthew 7:21-23**)
3. Religious deeds, good works, emotional movements do not save
4. There is a way to be familiar with the Truth, with the Lord without truly being born again
5. Christ will excommunicate the unbeliever and they will be judged and sent into an eternal Hell
6. The believers will enjoy the Kingdom, while the unbeliever will be cast out into inconsolable, never-ending wretchedness, where there will be frenzied anger, rage, and painful tears (**See Matthew 13:40-42, 49-50**)
 - a. Agony of pain and mental anguish – what could have been if I had taken the opportunity to believe in Christ
 - b. The compassion of Christ leads Him to warn of God's wrath

Special Privileges Do Not Equate To Salvation (Luke 13:29-30)

1. The Jewish privilege was great (**See Romans 9:4-5**)
2. Refusing the Son of God would cut off any from God's covenant, and cast out of the community of God
3. Some of the Jews who were chosen by God, the first, chose to reject Christ, thus cutting themselves out of the covenant vine who is Christ
4. The Gentiles who were not God's people, the last, chose to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, thus being grafted into the Covenant Vine
5. Where the Jews expected to be saved, since they rejected the Messiah, would be cast out and the Gentiles would be welcomed in
6. The reward of eternal life in Christ is priceless
 - a. Are there few in the Messianic Kingdom? Yes, but more importantly, are you part of the few who are in the Kingdom
7. Strive to enter the Kingdom of God by believing, repenting, mortifying sin, fleeing temptation, confessing sins, praying for the Lord's strength to endure – Run! Fight! Do not Fant! Strive by God's Grace!