

**“Are There Just a Few
Who are Being Saved?”**

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“Are There Just a Few Who are Being Saved?” (Read Luke 13:22-29)

Many and Few

The bible tells us that many are called but only a few are chosen. Many went out to the baptism services of John, and multitudes gathered to hear the preaching and teachings of Jesus. Yet, the bible tells us that His own did not receive Him.

The Advantages of the Jews

His own were the people of Israel, God’s chosen people. To them, God had given them His promises contained in His oracles through the law and the prophets. The greatest of which was the promise of the Messiah.

Knowledge without Power

Early in the first century, the time in which Jesus lived and ministered, there was a sect of religious leaders and scribes who spent all their time in studying and knowing the scriptures. It was to these leaders that Jesus said,

“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me,” John 5:39.

It seems that they knew the scriptures concerning the Lord, but they didn’t know the Lord of the scriptures. You see,

God doesn’t just want space in our heads, He wants the fulness of our hearts.

According to the prophets, God had promised a new covenant with His people saying, *“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.”*

We have the word of the Lord today in our homes and in our churches, but do we have Him in our hearts? We may know a lot about the scriptures, but do we know the Lord of the scriptures?

False Perception

In our current spiritual climate, there seems to be a dangerous trend in moving away from sound, biblical doctrine, and teaching, and as a result, many have developed a false perception of what it means to be a true follower of Christ.

Today’s perception of Christianity is that of a self-imposed gospel. We hold to a westernized version of the Christian faith which often fails to have any resemblance to the teachings of the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Message of Repentance

Here, in Luke’s gospel, Jesus’ teaching is in the context of repentance. Repentance was His overall message regarding entrance into the eternal kingdom of God. Jesus described this entrance as narrow and difficult.

The Question and Response

Therefore, one presented the question to Jesus, asking,

“Are there just a few who are being saved?”

Jesus responded to this question by saying,

“Strive to enter the narrow door.”

Other translations say that we must, “make every effort to enter the door,” “work hard to enter the door,” or “force yourself through the door.” In other words, do whatever it takes to get in.

What We Strive Against

Part of the difficulty one may have getting in the door is all the obstacles in our way. The people to whom Jesus was speaking were much like people today. They weren't seeking salvation because they were already saved, at least in their own assessment. They were children of Abraham, they knew the scriptures, and they had established their own righteousness through their own traditions.

To enter the kingdom of God requires one to deny self-will, to overcome pride, to abandon self-righteousness and self-imposed beliefs. There is no righteousness apart from the righteousness of Christ, therefore, we must repent and fully surrender our all to Him.

So Close Yet So Far Away

Here in Luke's gospel, we see people who are so close, yet so far away from the kingdom. They are standing at the door, yet they are unwilling to enter in. Here, Luke shows us the continued obstinance of Israel. However, despite their unwillingness to repent, God's plans for His eternal kingdom will still be accomplished. (See the parable of the mustard seed and the leaven. (13:18-20)

Urgency: From a narrow door to a closed door

So the time to act is now! The command to strive implies urgency. Jesus said that the narrow door will soon become a closed door.

Luke 13:24–25 (NASB95) ²⁴“Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵“Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ‘Lord, open up to us!’ then He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from.’”

When asked, “Are there just a few who are being saved?”, Jesus did not respond with a yes or no, He did not respond with a number; instead, Jesus responded by saying, “you better save yourself.”

(The essence of Jesus's response) “You must strive, make every effort, work hard, force yourself, do whatever it takes to get through the door.”

Knowledge of Jesus Christ is not enough.

Luke 13:26–28 (NASB95)²⁶“Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets’; ²⁷and He will say, ‘I tell you; I do not know where you are from; depart from Me, all you evildoers.’ “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 yourselves being thrown out.

A Place at the Table

Today, the door is open to all. God is patiently waiting. He is still accepting into His kingdom.

Luke 13:29 (NASB95) ²⁹“And they will come from east and west and from north and south and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God.

When will the last seat be filled? When will the master of the house close the door?

We better know Jesus! We must know Jesus! We better be following Jesus! We must follow Jesus!