

## **GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES** (August 14, 2022)

For Personal or Group Study

The narrow door, is referred to by the Lord Jesus and Luke 13:23-24 (and in Matthew 7:13-14). Jesus compares the narrow gate to the "broad road" which leads to destruction (hell) and says that "many" will be on that road. By contrast, Jesus says that "small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." What exactly is meant by this?

First, we need to understand that Jesus is the Door through which all must enter eternal life. There is no other way because He alone is "the way, the truth and the life."

Entering through the narrow gate is not easy. Jesus made this clear when He instructed His followers to "strive" to do so. But we must be clear here. No amount of effort saves us; salvation is by the grace of God through the gift of faith.

Many will seek to enter that narrow door, the door of salvation, but "will not be able." They are unwilling to trust/rely on Jesus alone. They are unwilling to pay the price. It costs too much for them to give up the world. God's gate is a gate through which one cannot carry the baggage of sin and self-will, nor can one carry the accoutrements of materialism. The way of Christ is the way of the cross, and the way of the cross is the way of self-denial.

### **The Narrow Door**

ENTIRE SERMON PASSAGE: LUKE 13:22-35

<sup>22</sup> He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup> And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, <sup>24</sup> "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup> 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.' <sup>26</sup> Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' <sup>27</sup> But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' <sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup> And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

## **Lament over Jerusalem**

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup> And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. <sup>33</sup> Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup> O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

### **WHAT DOES IT SAY?**

1. How does Jesus answer the question in verse 23?
2. What is the narrow door?
3. According to Jesus, who will make it through the narrow door and who won't?
4. If God loves all people, why isn't the door wider?
5. What are Jesus' intentions in vs 32-33?

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

6. Who are the people outside?
7. Why isn't eating and drinking with Jesus enough?
8. What do you think Jesus means by "evildoers"?

### **WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?**

9. Do you think only a few or many or all people will be saved? Why?
10. How do you know whether you are on the inside or outside the kingdom? How can you be sure?

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Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a moment or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray.