

Luke 13:22-35

Last week we began looking at this text, but it is so important, we are spending two weeks looking at it.

1. Now, if you missed last week, I ask you to take time to go hear the first part of this sermon.
2. We began by seeing the absolute calm of Jesus as he makes his way to Jerusalem.

22 And He was passing through from one city and village to another, teaching, and proceeding on His way to Jerusalem.

3. He isn't threatened by Herod or the Pharisees.

31 Just at that time some Pharisees approached, saying to Him, "Go away, leave here, for Herod wants to kill You." 32 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 reach My goal.' 33 Nevertheless I must journey on today and tomorrow and the next day; for it cannot be that a prophet would perish outside of Jerusalem

- a. He will be in Jerusalem for His scheduled (predetermined) death
- b. by the (predetermined) hands
- c. at the (predetermined time).

Jesus is in a state of sovereign calm...completely in charge, but the heart of the message as we began to see last week is found in verses 23-30.

23 And someone said to Him, "Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?" 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.

How many will be saved Jesus?

1. Will it be a large number or just a few.
2. Jesus addresses that question in Matthew 7

Matt 7:13-14 *Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14 For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

1. Jesus makes it clear...many enter through the wide gate and take the broad way that leads to destruction.
2. Few enter through the narrow gate and travel the narrow way that leads to life.
3. It doesn't take a math major to know that many is more than few...and the two are not even close in comparison.
4. This should cause us to stop and think.
 - a. **Jesus reveals Two Gates:** the wide gate and the narrow gate
 - b. **Jesus Reveals Two Ways:** the easy way and the difficult way
 - c. **Jesus Reveals Two Destinations:** destruction and life

5. Jesus reveals two gates, two ways, and two destinations, but there is only one command:

- a. Enter the Narrow Gate
- b. Come through the door: Jesus!
- c. There is only one way to heaven...there are 10,000 ways to hell.
- d. Acts 4:12 *Nor is there salvation in any other; for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

The right question is not how many will be saved, but will I be one of them?

23 *And someone said to Him, "Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?" 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.*

1. Many will seek, but that is not enough! We don't need to be seekers. We need strivers!
2. The term strive indicates that entering the door to God's kingdom takes conscious, purposeful, and intense effort.
 - a. The word carries with it the idea of contending for a prize...you pursue the door, Christ, like you would a gold medal in the olympic games. No! Even more.
 - b. It carries with it the idea of contending with an enemy....you pursue the narrow gate, Christ, like your life depends on it. It does!
 - c. It implies a struggle...you pursue Christ until you agonize to know Him more

d. John Bunyan said this, *"Therefore, when he says strive, it is as much as to say, 'Run for heaven, labor for heaven, wrestle for heaven, or you are likely to go without it.' People are prone to think they can get into heaven by lying, as it were, on their elbows."*

(Insanity of Sacrifice—Nick Ripkin)

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.'*

1. Remember that a door has two purposes: 1, to open to let in and 2, to shut to keep out.
2. Parable of the wise and foolish virgins
3. Don't put off getting right with God! Run to Him today.

26 *Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets'; **27** and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.'*

28 *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.*

The clincher here is that they are looking to themselves instead of to their Savior.

1. Don't you remember we ate and drank in your presence!
2. We heard you teach in our streets.
3. Don't you remember us Lord?

Does this not echo his teaching in Matthew 7 again?

Matthew 7:21-23 *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’*

These passages are so similar, let’s think about Jesus’ warning in Matthew first. There are 2 warnings.

1. **False Professions v21**

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

How many people all around us have been deceived because of a false profession

1. That is what Jesus is warning us about right here.
2. There are those who call him Lord, Lord
 - a. To address Jesus as Lord was to address Him as the one true God.
 - b. To address him as Lord, Lord was to add a spirit of intense zeal to demonstrate strength of devotion and dedication.
3. Jesus is therefore talking about those who make a profession of faith in Him.
 - a. And not just any profession of faith, but one that sounds orthodox, addressing Him as the one true God.
 - b. And not just one that sounds orthodox, but one that sounds sincere: Lord, Lord!
4. They say the right words and are sincere about those words and yet not all of them will enter the Kingdom.
5. They gave a false profession.
6. 2 Things I want us to be aware of
 - a. **Just because you have professed the faith doesn’t mean you possess the faith**
 1. Not everyone who says will enter, but the one who does!
 2. 100% of those Jesus is speaking of here have given a sincere orthodox profession of their faith: Lord, Lord.
 3. But not 100% of those Jesus is speaking of will enter the Kingdom of Heaven
 4. Therefore there is 0% guarantee of salvation based on our profession alone
 5. This is the exact opposite of what we hear today in most appeals
 - a. You repeat this prayer after me...and mean it...really really mean it.
 - b. Did you mean it? Then on the authority of God’s Word you are saved
 - c. Don’t let anyone ever cause you to question it!
 6. That is not what Jesus says. He makes clear that there is 0 guarantee in a profession alone.

7. Those who enter the Kingdom are those who profess and do!

a. Luke 6:46 *But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?*

b. To call on the name of the Lord continually, but never to do what he says is the essence of false profession.

8. The words of an engraving from a cathedral in Germany reflect the Lord's teaching here: *Thus speaketh Christ our Lord to us, You call me master and obey me not, you call me light and see me not, you call me the way and walk me not, you call me life and live me not, you call me wise and follow me not, you call me fair and love me not, you call me rich and ask me not, you call me eternal and seek me not, if I condemn thee, blame me not.*

b. Just because you have professed the faith doesn't mean you don't possess the faith

1. We need to be careful that we do not go to the opposite extreme and say that we should not make a sincere orthodox profession of our faith
2. 100% of those Jesus is speaking of here have given a sincere orthodox profession of their faith: Lord, Lord.
3. But not 100% of those Jesus is speaking of will enter the Kingdom of Heaven
4. But some of them will!
5. So let us be careful that we do not go to the opposite extreme and say that we should not make a sincere orthodox profession of our faith!
6. We see the importance of a profession in Scripture

a. Rom 10:9-10 *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved*

- b. The tax collector said, God, be merciful to me, a sinner!
- c. When a baby is born, he cries...and sometimes it takes a swat on the behind to get him going.
- d. When a child of God is born again, he cries out...and sometimes he may need some help to get going!

7. Let's not throw the baby out with the bathwater.

The problem we see addressed here by Jesus is not professing Him as Lord, but falsely professing Him as Lord and then finding assurance in that false profession alone.

2. False Performances v22-23

22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

Jesus goes on to discuss false performances

1. Not only have they said, but they are doing
2. They seem to be doing quite productively too!
 - a. They are prophesying
 - b. They are casting out demons
 - c. They are doing many mighty works!
 - d. And Jesus says to them, I NEVER knew you??

3. They can eat and drink with Jesus and listen to his sermons attentively and still have Jesus say “I never knew you!”

Sometimes, if we aren't careful we can begin to rely on our performance.

1. I have a list and I check it twice: bible, prayer, give, church etc. I have my list and I check it twice and God aren't you proud of me now?
2. Don't confuse busyness with godliness
 - a. *“In fact, attending church, hearing sermons, singing solos, reading the Bible, attending Bible studies, and many other perfectly good activities can actually insulate a person from the very God he is supposedly worshipping and serving.”* John MacArthur
 - b. In fact lost people who are neck deep in religion and service to their church are harder to the gospel than lost people neck deep in sin?
 - c. Their “goodness” has insulated them from the spirit's call.
 - d. *“If they had been hardened under a powerful ministry, and been sermon proof, I should have expected less.”* Richard Baxter
 - e. The clincher is not what are you doing...but are you moving from sin to holiness
3. And this is really the point here.

- a. A true believer when standing before Christ isn't going to say

1. Lord I prophesied in Your Name!
2. Lord I cast out demons
3. Lord I did many great things.
4. I ate and drank with you and listened to your sermons, so you should let me in.
5. A true believe when standing before Christ is not going to look to themselves, but to Christ!
6. Their only hope is the gospel!

- b. The GOSPEL and call for response

26 Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets'; **27** and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.' **28** 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

1. The Jewish Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes, lawyers, and religious leaders miss it!
2. But there will be people from every nation, tongue, and drive made willing.

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. **30** And behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last.”

1. We have the promise that people from all nations will be part of the Kingdom of God!
2. Luke 13:18-19 So He was saying, “What is the kingdom of God like, and to what shall I compare it? **19** It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and threw into his own garden; and it grew and became a tree, and THE BIRDS OF THE AIR NESTED IN ITS BRANCHES.”

3. Revelation 7:9-10 *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; 10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.*

- a. Don't you want to be a part of this: Evangelism, Discipling, Missions (praying, giving, going)
- b. Don't you want to be there: are you striving? Are you going to be there?
- c. Don't let verse 34 be true of you...

34 *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!*