



The Narrow Gate

Luke 13:22-30 ^{v22} *Jesus went through towns and villages, teaching the people and making his way toward Jerusalem.* ²³ *Someone asked him, "Sir, will just a few people be saved?" Jesus answered them,* ²⁴ *"Do your best to go in through the narrow door; because many people will surely try to go in but will not be able.* ²⁵ *the master of the house will get up and close the door; then when you stand outside and begin to knock on the door and say, 'Open the door for us, sir!' he will answer you, 'I don't know where you come from!'* ²⁶ *Then you will answer, 'We ate and drank with you; you taught in our town!'* ²⁷ *But he will say again, 'I don't know where you come from. Get away from me, all you wicked people!'* ²⁸ *How you will cry and gnash your teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, while you are thrown out!* ²⁹ *People will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down at the feast in the Kingdom of God.* ³⁰ *Then those who are now last will be first, and those who are now first will be last."*

The bible is full of contrasts or shadows and Jesus used many, to describe our attitudes, to show us where we were falling short of God's measurements and what we need to do to take heed of what He said and in our own heart to make the decision to change.

Some of the shadows or contrasts used are:

1. Salt and light – if we lose our saltiness or uniqueness, our love for people and to get them saved we are useless to God's plans and purposes.
2. Rich and poor – Lazarus and the rich man – One person was rich and never paid attention to his soul, the other was poor but love God
3. Sheep and goats – Some people are His sheep, they follow Him and others are goats because they follow their own way.

In this story or parable, Jesus uses two doors. These two doors are the exact opposite of one another. One points to eternal life or heaven, the other points to eternal separation from God or hell.

The question was, in v23 "Sir, will just a few people be saved? And the answer is yes only a few people who enter the narrow gate will be saved.

Jesus is the Way

People all through the world believe that there are many ways to God, some even believe whether you worship Jesus, Allah, Buddha or and other god, all paths or all ways lead to God! And that is the lie, the great deception from Satan!

No matter what the world says, no matter what any theologian says, there is according to our Bible, only way or one path to God, and that path is Jesus Christ. I do not care what other people say, Jesus Christ says in **John 14:6**, "I am the way and the truth and the way and the life, no one comes to the father but by Me!"

In **Proverbs 16:25**, the Amplified says "there is a way that seems right to man and appears to be straight before him, but the end of it is the way of death."

So there is God's way, Jesus Christ which leads to eternal life with Him, and there is man's way, which always' lead to death or separation from God!

The facts are

So each one of us here today, irrespective of what you know, who you are, and what you believe must consider the three facts found in our texts, Luke 13:22-30. And these facts are:

1. Only the people who go through the narrow door will be saved.

That means that each one of us, must himself or herself, choose to go through the door, go through Jesus Christ, through the cross, through His death and resurrection – that is the door I am speaking of. Each one of us must open that door ourselves, I cannot do it for you! I can point you in the right direction but we individually must choose or reject Jesus Christ.

Not choosing or refusing to choose is the same as siding with the world and against God.

I am taking time so that we all understand, we individually need to do exactly what **Romans**



10:9, says, not what other people tell us, what the Bible says which is:

"If you declare with your mouth [with what must you declare?] "Jesus is Lord" [do you really believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is LORD of ALL? Really believe this?] and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Look at me, be completely honest with yourself:

- Do you honestly believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He, Jesus is Lord?
- That means He is above and over everything?
- That means because He is Lord I can put my entire trust in Him, for everything?
- Do you really, really believe that after three days in hell, God raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

If you honestly believe this and are totally convince that he is the Son of God, then according to Romans 10:9 – You are born again!

Now I want to charge you with this!

- Get your life sorted out!
- Stop all the negative thinking, negative talk, gossip, slander and other things which we so easily do every day.
- Start to live a life in the Freedom that Jesus Christ purchased for you with His very life!
- Start to live your life in the Victory Already purchased by the Blood of Jesus

So the first thing according to Luke 13:22-30 is to enter through the narrow gate. It is not an easy thing to do, it will cost you so much but is worth everything when you stand one day before our King and He says Well Done!

The next fact is that:

2. Only the people who give up their ideas and plans and choose Gods way will be able to enter through the door.

I am really sorry to tell you this but:

- You cannot go to heaven on your own!
- You cannot get there on your own steam or through your own effort or plans.
- You cannot get there through great ideas or even Religion.

The only way to go through the narrow gate and get into heaven is:

- By CHANGING your way of thinking into God's way of thinking.
- By changing the way you think about yourself and the way God sees you!
- By taking God's Word and allowing it to change you! But putting your trust in the Word of God and by claiming that Word as your own and DOING what is says.

I cannot express this point enough and you have heard me say it many times this year already, we need to get into the Word of God, we need to study it, we need to hear it, we need to read it with our own eye and meditating on it, and whenever the Word of God comes into conflict with our way of thinking or our pet belief, and it will!!! CHANGE your Belief to get in line with God Word and make the change in your own life, and while you about it make that change permanent.

So if I believe something is true, I have always believed it is true and I am convinced it is true, then while reading the Word of God I realise I am wrong, then change your way of thinking in line with God's Word – not matter what it is – do the Word in your life, all the time!!!

Jesus said unless we give it all up and take up our cross and follow Him we are not worth of Him!

3. Only those who choose to go through the door will have eternal life.

The last fact is that you and I have to choose to serve God. You and I have to go through the door which is Jesus Christ and we can only do that by our CHOICE! We all must choose to accept or reject Jesus Christ call to becoming His child.

As I said before, not choosing or refusing to choose is a choice against God!



I want to highlight the opposite of what we have been talking about!

The opposite is also true

- Those who choose to follow their own way will get the reward for not obeying God.
- Those who choose this kingdom over God's kingdom will not enter into God's Kingdom, this is the wide gate because most people are on this road.
- This road is a path of a Christ less life – yes some of these people go to church and do great things but they are not serving God and totally submitted to His plan.
- The end of this road leads to eternal separation with God or hell.
- Most people are on it. If you have not gone through the door you will not have eternal life.

So what is or where is the door

So as we close this message, I want to ready the scripture in context of **John 14:6**, just so that we can see and hear what the context to John 14:6, so let's turn in our Bibles to **John 14**.

John 14:1-6 *"1 Do not be worried and upset," Jesus told them. "Believe in God and believe also in me. 2 There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. 3 And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am. 4 You know the way that leads to the place where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; so how can we know the way to get there?" 6 Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me."*

So clearly according to the full text: Jesus is talking about Heaven, would you all agree. If fact not only is He talking about Heaven but He is talking about preparing a special place for those who are His own, those who come through the Doorway which is Christ.

- We see that Jesus is the way, the only way to God - He is the ONLY WAY to God or into heaven, Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross is our pass, our key, our door, our only way into heaven and into the very presence of God. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY!!!
- He is the door. Jesus Christ the only door to God - We cannot get to God unless we enter through the door or way he made for us.
- He died for our sins so that we do not have to go to hell – And Only He can save us from our sins, not our money, our good looks, our knowledge or anything else.

God does not want us to be sorry for our sins, he wants us to repent! Turn away from our sins as

2 Corinthians 7:10 says - *"Godly sorrow leads to repentance, which brings salvation and leads to no regrets, worldly sorry leads to death."*

You Get to choose – life or death / Jesus or Satan / Eternal life or eternal Hell / the wide gate or the narrow gate.

Which one will you choose – Today!

Let us pray