

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

“AN URGENT RESPONSE TO AN ULTIMATE QUESTION”

For individual study or group discussion

In Luke 13:22-30, Jesus is moving from town to town as he journeys to Jerusalem. During this time, he continues with his hard sayings. In verses 25-28, we come across one of the hardest sayings of all: there will come a day when the master of the house will shut the door and say to those pleading to be let in, *“Depart from me, all you workers of evil! In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”* As Jesus preaches the coming Kingdom of God, he presses his audience to keep the end in view as he presents **an urgent response to an ultimate question**: *“Who will be saved?”*

Jesus graciously receives a curious question. (vv. 22-23)

After hearing the many woes addressed to the Pharisees in Luke 11:37-53 and the warnings of hypocrisy in chapter 12, it's no wonder that someone from the crowd asked the question, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” The answer to the question doesn't look promising, but as one pastor explains, *“Will only a few be saved? It depends on how you look at it. From our perspective, from our inability to find the narrow door and squeeze our way through it on our own, the answer is yes, only a few. Fewer than a few in fact. There's only one who has made it through the narrow door on his own merits; and Jesus did that for you. But when you look at it from God's perspective, through the narrow door of Jesus' death, the answer is no. Not a few, but many, a great multitude no one can count from every nation, tribe, people, and language. The narrow door of Jesus' death is wide enough to include the worst of sinners, the chief of sinners, even you. Jesus is that narrow door that leads to life for the world and for you.”*¹

- Most of us have wondered at one point or another, “How many people will there be in heaven?” Why is this not the ultimate question?
- Read the sobering words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7:13-14. In our culture, we are encouraged to be “broad-minded” and making exclusive truth claims is considered “narrow-minded.” Read John 14:6. How exclusive is Jesus?

Jesus compassionately redirects toward an urgent, personal need. (vv. 24-27)

In typical Jesus style, he doesn't answer the question from the crowd, but graciously redirects his listeners to what is truly important for them to know: right now the door of opportunity is open to enter the Kingdom of God, but it won't stay open forever. Our urgent, personal need is to “strive to enter through the narrow door” (v. 24).

- In John 10:9 Jesus claims to be the door to salvation. What is Jesus communicating about himself? How does one enter the door? (John 1:12-13)
- One commentator states that *“salvation is more than familiarity with Jesus.”*² How is this statement relevant to those who have been raised in the church? Read Luke 3:8 and John 8:39. What does genuine faith look like? What fruit will it bear?

Jesus surprisingly illustrates the ultimate question. (vv. 28-30)

In verses 28-30, we find a surprising reversal of what is expected. People from every tribe and nation will find the narrow door and enter the Kingdom of God. “And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last” (v. 30).

- Read Revelation 7:9-17. How does John's vision of heaven relate to Christ's description of the Kingdom of God?

DATE: October 8, 2023

SPEAKER: Jim Richter/Frank

SERIES: Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 13:22-30

Family Dinner Table

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” John 14:6

Disney's recent addition to the Star Wars franchise is a popular series called *The Mandalorian*. The story follows lone bounty hunter Din Djarin, known as Mando, who is hired by Imperial forces to bring back the Force-gifted child, Grogu. Instead of handing Grogu over to the First Order, his bond with the child impels him to seek out the Jedi so that Grogu can be trained in his abilities to use the Force. “This is the way” is repeated throughout the series by Mando as a set of inviolable principles that embodies an ethic that each Mandalorian must uphold: protecting fellow Mandalorians, taking in foundlings, and wearing a helmet at all times.

In John 10:9, Jesus declares that the “narrow door” of Luke 13:22-30 that he urges his listeners to enter is indeed himself. Later, in John 14:6, he also discloses, *“I am the way.”* To be a follower of “The Way” involves more than a mere familiarity with Jesus Christ. For those who want to be disciples of Christ, they must embody his Kingdom ethic of loving *“the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself”* (Luke 10:27). This is the way.

- Read John 14:1-17. How do you know if you are a follower of *The Way*?

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¹Schuldheisz, Samuel. (2022, August 22). E-nklings. *Sermon for Pentecost 11: The Narrow Door*. <http://e-nklings-revschuldheisz.blogspot.com/search?q=luke%2B13%3A22-30>

²Davis, Ralph. *Luke 1-13: The Year of the Lord's Favor*. 2021. Tain, Scotland. Christian Focus Publications. 246.