

The Gospel of Luke

Strive to Enter Through the Narrow Door

Luke 13:22-30

1. **The Difficulty of Salvation** (v.24)

Luke often introduces a section of Christ's teaching with a question that was asked of Him (Luke 11:1, 27, 45; 12:13, 41). Though Jesus does not answer the question (cf. Matt 7:14), He pleads that those hearing Him would respond properly to His message (Luke 13:5). Salvation is difficult not because man must in some way earn salvation from God, but in forsaking the sin that would keep man from receiving the free offer of salvation from God (Luke 9:23-24; 18:23). Many will wish to benefit from God's eternal blessings while few will receive them.

2. **The Urgency of Salvation** (v.25)

Everyone must respond properly to Jesus message, and they must respond while they are able to (cf. Luke 16:26; Heb 9:27). There will be a time when there will no longer be an opportunity to respond properly to the message of Jesus.

3. **The Insufficiency of Association** (v.26)

Jesus' ministry drew many followers who were eager to be around His amazing rhetorical and miraculous abilities (Luke 12:1; 13:17; John 6:26). Being around Jesus, listening to His teachings, getting to know much about Him, participating in some form of ministry, or being of the right lineage is not sufficient for entrance into the kingdom of God (Matt 7:21-22; Luke 3:8). The only sufficient response is repentance and faith (Mark 1:15; Luke 3:8; 8:21; 11:28; 18:10-14).

4. **The Perplexity of Judgment** (v.27)

It is tragic that many people will be shocked to find themselves outside of God's kingdom. These people who, until the end, believed that they were going to inherit the kingdom of God will be utterly flummoxed as the reality of their condemnation begins to set in (cf. Matt 7:21-23).

5. **The Calamity of Condemnation** (v.28)

God's everlasting judgment upon sinful men is variously described as outer darkness, a place where the worm never dies, the place of weeping and gnashing of teeth, and an unquenchable fire (Matt 13:50; Mark 9:48; Rev 14:10). The suffering will be real and it will be unending, and those who endure it will be weeping in the agony of their torment and writhing with anger towards God (cf. Acts 7:54).

6. **The Beneficiary of Salvation** (vs.29-30)

Those who inherit the blessings of God in salvation and enter into the kingdom of God will be anyone, and everyone, who responds to the gospel of Christ in repentance and faith.