

Luke 13 :1-17. Those included in the kingdom 33:22-35 Those excluded from the Kingdom **As he moves through the towns and villages of the Judean hills, which He had previously sent His disciples on his way towards the city of the Temple, Jerusalem. He is now about six months out from His crucifixion..: Somewhere along the way, a man in the crowd puts a question to Jesus....**

*NIV LK 13:22 Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup> **Someone** asked him, (an individual)"Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them, (all the jews who were within ear shot) <sup>24</sup> "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.*

- **it would appear** the audience was Jewish. **Whatever the man's motive, the question provided Jesus with the occasion to teach His audience for he responds to them... .... an important lesson.**
- **First Doors play a major role in our lives if you think about it. ... Almost no activity in our lives does not have a door or gate mixed in it somehow: from the front door of where you live to a refrigerator door where we get food... from the car door to the closet door, from an open door to a closed door including the back yard gate of your home...**
- **Doors and gates play basically two roles for us, they protect and they make possibilities. When they're closed, they protect and keep people out and keep others in, ... When they're open they in create possibilities for new things....**
- **..so when Jesus speaks of the Narrow Door or gate the idea is the entrance to something...,**
- **The door leading to salvation is nar- row, you enter one at a time...it is different, and difficult to find.**

- Jesus, in speaking of this “**narrow door,**” states that the answer to the man’s question was that only a few would be saved.

**So what Does Jesus means when He says, the narrow door...or narrow gate** The word door can be translated gate....and in John chapter 10 Jesus defines what this door or gate is...

*NLT JN 10:1 “I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! <sup>2</sup> But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They won’t follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don’t know his voice.”<sup>6</sup> Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn’t understand what he meant, <sup>7</sup> so he explained it to them: “I tell you the truth, **I am the gate for the sheep.***

*<sup>8</sup> All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> **Yes, I am the gate.** Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. <sup>10</sup> The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. **My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.***

**Why did Jesus call Himself "the Gate for the sheep"?**

- **In those days, a shepherd would make an enclosure of thorny branches or rocks, sheep folds, little corrals we would say with walls about this high, waist high, usually made out of rocks from the hillside and inside of those sheepfolds the shepherd will leave the sheep.**

- They would have a single doorway by which the flock could enter.
- The gate was just a space The door or gate would be narrow letting in one sheep at a time...the door was literally a person the Shepard.
- When evening came and the sheep had entered, the shepherd himself would sleep in the doorway of the sheep pen to guard his sheep.
- And an animal or man that would enter the pen by any other way...had an intent to hurt the sheep and avoid detection by the shepherd.
- He alone is the door that can admit sin bound people into eternal life.
- That is why God's Word says:

*NLT AC 4: 12 There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."*

- Jesus is the one and only door to Salvation. It is a narrow door!
- But there is more

**Jesus is not only "the Gate for the sheep," He is also "the Good Shepherd."** Jesus is the Good Shepherd, because He is the One who loved us and gave His life to save the flock.

*NLT John 10: 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. <sup>13</sup> The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep.*

<sup>14</sup> *“I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, <sup>15</sup> just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.*

➤ **This was the problem with the man asking how many will be saved... He figured he and his fellow Israelites ...were the few and the other ethnic groups were the many....**

➤ **When Jesus left heaven to come as a human being....the earth suit is what all people wear ...it is about humanity ... the ethnicity being an israelite is how we were able to identify him as the promised Messiah**

➤ **sheep are sheep and there are other sheep...**

➤ **he will protect them with his life....and those who do not belong will not be let in...he is the door...few will accept that...**

➤ **Matt says it this way**

*NLT Matt 7:13 “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell<sup>[f]</sup> is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. <sup>14</sup> But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.*

**What makes this door so difficult to enter ... because entry into the Kingdom of God requires entering the door of Jesus ...which will lead to a change of the way we do life.**

- **So the idea being presented is that all are on the broad road whatever path our life is on... which will end in destruction, But some on this road will find the narrow gate/door**

- And that door opens up into a new life...a new life means new things...means new experiences, new ways of living life, it means the kingdom has come upon your life
- you are now in the sheepfold of God...Jesus is the shepherd...

The way is not barred but at some point the door will be closed... Jesus' will finally "get up and closes the door..." he was speaking to the religious

*NIV Luke 13:25* Once the owner of the house **gets up** and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' *(not a personal relationship)* "But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' *LK 13:26* "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'

*LK 13:27* "But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!' *LK 13:28* "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets *in the kingdom of God*, but you yourselves thrown out. *(the Jews would recognize these prophets)*

Apparently the host is seated or reclining at the banquet table, but it is time to begin the banquet..all the guests have arrived... and he deliberately gets up and shuts the door. No more guests can enter. The banquet will begin.

- Now those who knew of him but failed to enter, come again, see the door closed, and begin pounding on it.
- " Through the closed door, the homeowner denies that he knows those outside, shouting to get inside. "I don't know you or where you come from."
- it appears that those who think they are the few will actually be the many who are out...

- the Jews who thought they were tight with God because of their lineage dating back to Abraham and their laws going back to Moses...made them automatic shoe ins...made them saved...he is telling them they had the knowledge first...
- Jesus is telling them it is relationship with him...their Messiah...which opens heaven to them...

That seems a bit harsh. But these people as name-droppers trying to crash a party. They may have met the host once, even ate at the same place, and have heard the teaching... but they don't have any real relationship themselves.

- So the host denies any relationship that obligates him to open the door, and shoos them away.
- If you knew me you would be in here already...the fact that you are not at the table is evil to say you know me when you don't...

*NLT<sup>LK 13: 28</sup> “There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, for you will see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, but you will be thrown out.*

- These were Jews he was speaking too...they will see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and the prophets...they will weep and gnash their teeth in unbelief...I can't believe it!! Ahhh we missed out...
- if you were attending this banquet you would have been my friends already and would have been friends with my banquet participants... *NIVLK 13: 29* People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup> Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.”

Notice that it is a banquet and kingdom "for all peoples" The Gentiles, whom the Jews considered "last," may well be given first place in this banquet, while the Jews, who considered themselves "first" in God's estimation, may find themselves last -- perhaps even outside the Kingdom, unless they repent and respond to Jesus' call.

What does this banquet look like? *Isaiah gives us a glimpse of the banquet...*

*NLT Isa 25:6 In Jerusalem, the LORD of Heaven's Armies will spread a wonderful feast for all the people of the world. It will be a delicious banquet with clear, well-aged wine and choice meat.*

*<sup>7</sup> There he will remove the cloud of gloom, the shadow of death that hangs over the earth.*

*<sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death forever! The Sovereign LORD will wipe away all tears. He will remove forever all insults and mockery against his land and people. The LORD has spoken!*

*<sup>9</sup> In that day the people will proclaim, (*the banquet participants*) "This is our God! We trusted in him, and he saved us! This is the LORD, in whom we trusted. Let us rejoice in the salvation he brings!"*

**All man made barriers to relationship are broken in Jesus...there is no one superior...we are family...the heavenly banquet includes all who will come...all whom we will bring...**

*Do you know that you also are a door... in particular a doorman or doorwomen and people will look at you as weird! "just the type of people the Lord Jesus uses to bring in those whose Normal is no longer working!!"*