

July 22, 2018



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Entering God's Kingdom Luke 13:22-30

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson guides us to understand what the Lord Jesus taught about **Entering God's Kingdom**. The **study's aim** is to realize that all our hope to enter into heaven ourselves hinges on our acceptance of God's Word. The **study's application** is to live, think, and believe in a way so as to enter into the kingdom of God.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

The words of today's text were spoken during the Lord's great teaching ministry. If you study His teaching ministry carefully, you can see that He touched on many subjects. But **Jesus' chief concern was the need of salvation**. The Lord Jesus was an evangelist first and foremost in His teaching and preaching. He was a soul-winner. This text is a rather stern, no-nonsense admonition to diligently seek the way of salvation. Jesus received a question one day about how many would be saved (Luke 13:23). Perhaps the answer given was not the answer that was expected. It is certainly an answer not very popular today, but it is the only answer that can be given. The Lord compared the way of salvation to a narrow gate. The word used here is the word from which we get "stenosis," a narrowing or constriction. It is hard to get in this gate. Jesus knew there were many "wide" gates that were more appealing to people (Matt. 7:13-14). The narrow gate is not as appealing and does not seem as inviting, but it is the one that must be found. There is only one gate of salvation, and that is by grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ. It is tempting to look for something broader than this, but Jesus said people must find this gate. Also, one must "strive" to enter it. Here the Lord was saying that there is often a struggle in entering the gate of salvation. As human beings grope for salvation, they struggle against their own flesh, which wants to do its own thing. They struggle against the world, which is filled with lies and deceit concerning salvation. They struggle against man-made religion, which often obscures the way of salvation. They struggle against the devil, who seeks to control and devour as many as he can. Yes, the gate of salvation can be difficult to enter. It is so difficult that the Lord used a term here that correlates to our English word "agony." It can be agonizing to watch someone who is lost and outside of salvation and struggling in life! Believers know what the right gate is. We may call out to others, but often it seems as if there are so many obstacles and so much confusion. The word "strive" is often used of athletic contests, like a wrestling match. No wonder some have referred to the preaching of the gospel as the great contest for souls. This narrow way does not mean that the way of salvation is tricky or complicated, but only that men and women must come to salvation God's way. He is just and merciful, but to be forgiven, it must be on His terms. Many struggle with this because they want salvation on their own terms. But salvation can only come according to the will of God (cf. Matt. 7:21). Our text is a stern warning. It reminds believers that sharing the gospel in this world will often not be easy. Lost people are struggling in the darkness to find the way and enter the gate. We need to remind them where the narrow gate is and how to enter it before they are shut out.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

We are saved by Christ's dying, not by our doing

ANSWER FOR THE WEEK:

WHY DO WE NEED A SPIRITUAL BIRTH?
We are conceived in sin (Ps. 51:5)
We all commit sin (Rom. 3:23)
We are made righteous by putting our faith in Jesus, who died on the cross (Rom 5:12-19).

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

(John 3:3 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Jan 24, 1997)

Series: Justice in the New Testament

UNIT: Jesus Calls for Justice and Mercy

NEXT WEEK

Parable of the Great Dinner (Luke 14:15-24)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Entry Requirements (Luke 13:22-24)

Requirements that are being taught to all (22-23)

- Teaching that is being obeyed (Rom 6:17-18)
- Teaching that leads to contending for the faith (Jude 1:3)
- Teaching that is being remembered (1 Cor 11:2)
- Teaching by teachers who have been taught themselves (Rom 2:17-21)

Requirements cannot be fulfilled through human effort (23-24)

- Human efforts cannot be relied upon, only God is trustworthy (2 Cor 1:9)
- Human efforts cannot supply competence only through God (2 Cor 3:5)
- Human weaknesses allow God's power to be relied upon (2 Cor 12:9)
- Human wisdom should never be boasted only boast on knowing and relying on God (Jer 9:23-24)
- Human efforts can lead to wickedness and reaps evil (Hos 10:13)

Entry Denied (Luke 13:25-28)

Denied to those who are not known by God (25-26)

- Not known by God because of being evildoers (Matt 7:22-24)
- Not known by God because of not being prepared when He calls (Matt 25:6-13)
- Not known by God because of not obeying Him (Luke 6:46)
- Not known by God because of unbelief (Heb 3:18-19)

Denied to those whose have not accepted Jesus (27-28)

- Not accepting Jesus because of not entering the narrow gate (Matt 7:13-14)
- Not accepting Jesus because of being ashamed of Him (Luke 9:26)
- Not accepting Jesus because of unbelief (Rev 21:8)
- Not accepting Jesus because of wickedness (Rev 22:15)
- Not accepting Jesus because of not believing in the name of Jesus (John 3:18)
- Not accepting Jesus because of not believing the testimony of God (1 John 5:10)

Entry Fulfilled (Luke 13:29-30)

Fulfilled because all have opportunity (29)

- Opportunity because God will dispatch His angels to gather His elect (Mark 13:27)
- Opportunity because God's salvation has been sent to the Gentiles (Acts 28:28)
- Opportunity because the gospel is bearing fruit all over the world (Col 1:5-6)
- Opportunity because the gospel will be proclaimed to every creature (Col 1:22-23)
- Opportunity because God's Name will be great among the nations (Mal 1:11)

Fulfilled through God's purposes not human (30)

- God's purposes cannot be stopped because God does according to His Will (Dan 4:35)
- God's purposes cannot be stopped because God does whatever pleases Him (Ps 115:3)
- God's purposes cannot be stopped because God does what He desires in heaven and on earth (Ps 135:6)
- God's purposes cannot be stopped because God does what He intended and what He has planned (Isa 14:24)
- God's purposes cannot be stopped because God's plans stand firm forever (Ps 33:10-11)
- God's purposes cannot be stopped because God determines the outcome (Prov 16:9)