

## Luke 13:22-30, "The Struggle of Salvation, Part 1"

- ✍️ "Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he went, always pressing on toward Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few be saved?,"" Luke 13:22-23. Why would they ask a question like that, when Jesus is surrounded by people who want to hear and see Him? They say that because it is becoming obvious that people were there largely for the wrong reasons they weren't coming to be saved. Jesus responds with a message of panic and sheer horror: He replied, "Work hard to enter the narrow door to God's Kingdom, for many will try to enter but will fail. Luke 13:24, that's Shocking!
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### 1. A message of panic.

- ✓ One of the most frightening statements that Jesus ever made. Many people are going to want to be saved and, even, expect to be saved but are not going to be. Jesus says strive or fight to enter the door of salvation, but He also says many will not win that fight and will not be saved, scary stuff. Jesus is trying to panic His hearers because it is something to truly panic over. Jesus says many who plan to go, want to go, and strive to go will not be going. You might be inclined to think that isn't consistent with Jesus' other teachings, but, in fact, it is: Matthew 7:22-23; Matthew 7:13-14.

### 2. People who want to be saved are not going to be, many of them.

- ✓ This is one of the saddest statements in all of Scripture. Hell will be populated by many who thought they were going to Heaven: Matthew 7:22-23. They fully expected to go and we would fully expect them to go as well. In Luke 13:25-30 they fully expected to go and are even banging on the door! This isn't a popular teaching because we don't want people to feel bad, but Jesus made people feel bad all the time.

### 3. Few that plan to go to Heaven will go because they don't know what salvation is.

- ✓ These were all people who thought they were saved, if you had asked them "are you saved" they would have said "yes." They were seeking salvation of some sort and they were saved in their version of what salvation is, but they weren't saved in reality. You can identify as a saved person but that doesn't really change anything.

### 4. Saved from What?

- ✓ You say saved, what do you mean? If what you say it is, and what the Bible says it is differ, can we agree that you aren't saved? You can't have a version of salvation that differs from the Bible and expect to go to Heaven. If you listen to the modern preachers it seems that being saved means being saved from unfulfillment, dissatisfaction, poverty, inadequate feelings about yourself, you don't need to be saved from those things. The world is drowning, and you would think that it would be obvious what they needed to be saved from, but Jesus came, and preached salvation and most people rejected Him and His message, Amazing! This is why He says that many will seek and expect to be saved but will not be, they identified as being saved but Jesus says they were not.
- ✓ Step One: Saved from what? Sin? Yes, and no. Hell? Yes, and no. Very simply and very biblically, we are, ultimately, being saved from God. Hell isn't roaming the streets looking for us. Sin isn't dangerous by itself. It's not sin or God's broken Laws that coming for you, it's the One who wrote those laws, the One who you sinned against, the One who is going to enforce His laws. It's not Hell, ultimately, it's the King of Hell that you should be deathly afraid of, Luke 12:5. It is the wrath of the One you are in rebellion against and whose enemy you are because of your sin and breaking His laws. It's not the laws and not even the sentence, per se, it is the Judge that you need to desperately fear. Jesus is the Savior, right? Saving you from what?, Himself!, John 5:22. So, part of the reason why many will try to go to Heaven and expect to go to Heaven but will not go is because they do not even understand what they are being saved from. One more illustration: Luke 18:10-12, He doesn't know that He needs saving, he thinks he's saved himself, He identifies as saved because he's more moral than most. Luke 18:13-14, this man understands what he needs to be saved from, from God; and he cries out for mercy from the King of life and death, the Enforcer of the Law, the Judge of the Universe.

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