



## PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

# LUKE 13:22-30

## LESSON: ENTERING GOD'S KINGDOM—July 22, 2018

### INTRODUCTION:

#### **Luke 13: 18-21 Jesus Teaches about the Kingdom of God**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus said, 'Let us describe the *\*kingdom of God*. It is like a *\*\*mustard seed* that a man planted in his garden. The seed grew and it became like a tree. And the wild birds built nests in its branches.' Again he said, "The *\*kingdom of God* is like this. It is like yeast (leaven) that a woman took. She mixed it in three bowls of dough. The yeast caused all the dough to rise." <sup>2</sup>The general expectation in Jesus' day was that the Messiah would come as a great king and leader, to set up His kingdom, and to free the nation from the rule of Rome. However, in the parable of the "*mustard seed*" and the parable of the leaven, Jesus points out two aspects of the kingdom. The first is how the church will grow to be a large tree and the second is how evil doctrine will spread throughout its branches.

### NOTE:

**\*Kingdom of God** is also called "*the kingdom of heaven*" where God rules both present and future.  
**\*\*Mustard seed** is the smallest of seeds grown as a gardener growing into an enormous bush, and maturing as large as some trees.

Jesus knew that He was on His way to die, but He continued preaching to large crowds (v. 22). The prospect of death did not deter Jesus from His mission.

### LESSON: I. INTRIGUING QUESTION LUKE 13:22-23

**13:22** And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. As Jesus journeyed toward Jerusalem, He goes through the cities and villages on His way to the cross. He taught wherever He was. He kept on doing what God sent Him to do, not slacking off nor forgetting His call and mission, whether in a large city or a small village.

**13:23** Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,— Somewhere along the way, someone asks Jesus a point blank and intriguing and probing question: "*Lord, are there few that be saved?*" The Jews taught that all should be saved (only Jews) just because they were Jews by birth and circumcision. But Jesus taught that nationality and ritual had nothing to do with salvation. He always stressed that many are called, but few are chosen. It was not for this man to ask about few being saved, but to really, really know the way to salvation and was he saved. Jesus then takes this opportunity to speak unto them; all the multitude. It was a warning against religious presumption.

### II. INSIGHTFUL ANSWER LUKE 13:24-27

**13:24** Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/jesus-teaches-about-the-kingdom-of-god/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/luke9-19-im-lbw.htm>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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**not be able. The saved strive to enter the narrow gate.**

1. **Strive to be saved** was something the Jews wouldn't do if they thought they were already saved. They would make no effort; not struggle, or labor fervently. The idea is not that a person works for his salvation, but that he diligently seeks God; striving to come out of the sin that holds you back, thereby leaving the sin behind and striving to establish a relationship with Jesus whatever the cost. You can't take sin with you, just as you can't take all your possessions with you when you die. Whole-hearted dedication and effort is required to be saved because if there is a fight in heaven for your soul, there is a fight on earth to receive salvation.
2. The **entrance to salvation** is a straight and narrow gate.
  - a. *The way to salvation* is very specific.
  - b. *The way to salvation* is only one way. There are not many ways to be saved; there is only one way—through Jesus Christ. He is the door. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. If the Jews didn't enter the straight/narrow gate, they could not enter the Kingdom of God.
  - c. *The way to salvation* is straight. It is not crooked in direction or purpose or morals. It is the straight way. We can't go around it; it must be straight with repentance of sin.
3. **Seek to enter in now**, for many will seek to enter the door of salvation, but there will come a time when we will not be able to be saved, as we will see in the next verse.

**13:25** When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:— There is a shut door.

1. The master of the house will rise up and shut the door to salvation. This means that there is a time limit to salvation. The door will not always be opened.
2. The door of salvation is shut at a person's death.
3. The door of salvation is shut when the Lord returns. The age of grace and the day of salvation will be closed for the whole world.

They will knock on the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us, but the Lord will tell them that He doesn't know them. Once a man dies, it's too late. Once Christ returns, it will be too late. The time is now to be whole-heartedly committed to Him!

**13:26** Then shall ye begin to say, **We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.**<sup>3</sup> Some of those to whom Jesus refuses entry will argue against that decision. They will say that they did know Jesus. They even ate and drank with Him. They heard Him as he taught in their streets. Yes, they were there, but they did not believe in Jesus. We see that they only professed outwardly to know Him, but not genuine believers. They are people who had all the privileges of the gospel; some are even baptized church members and moral persons, but they never dedicated their whole being to strive after salvation. In the end, there will be just two types of people: those inside and those outside. Both types are sinners. But those inside have repented and they have believed in Jesus.

**13:27** But he shall say, **I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.**

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/luke9-19-im-lbw.htm>  
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The saved shall be separated from the lost. Jesus gives His insightful and observant answer.

1. The Master will not know the lost nor from whence they came.
2. The Master will have to reject the lost because they had been workers of iniquity.

## III. INCONTROVERTIBLE CONCLUSION LUKE 13:28-30

**13:28** There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. There will be loud grief and grinding of the teeth—biting in bitterness and indignation, spitefully snapping the teeth, rage, fury, and despair because nothing can be done. A person's state is permanently determined.

1. The lost will weep and gnash their teeth.
2. And the lost shall see the saved enter into the God's kingdom. They see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, for they were persecuted in their belief.
3. But the lost are cast outside.

**13:29** And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. The saved will come from all nations and classes of society. This is a prediction of the great Gentile revival and conversion to take place.

1. The saved will come from the four corners of the world.
2. The saved will sit down in the Kingdom of God. This is the undeniable conclusion!

**13:30** And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.

3. The saved will come from all classes, even from those who are classified as last, by men. They shall be first. And those classified as first, by men will be last. Classes do not matter to God. Many great people on the earth (in God's eyes) are virtually ignored by the rest of the world. What matters to God is not one's earthly popularity status, wealth, heritage, or power, but one's commitment to Christ.

## SUMMARY:

As Jesus journeyed toward Jerusalem, He goes through the cities and villages on His way to the cross. Somewhere along the way, someone asks Jesus point blank: "*Lord, are there few that be saved?*" And Jesus takes this opportunity to speak unto them (13:22-23).

Jesus answers speaking to the multitude telling them to strive to enter the narrow gate, for many will seek to enter in, and shall not be able to, because the Master of the house will rise up and shut the door to salvation which brings one into the Kingdom of God. Some will say that they had eaten and drank in the Lord's presence, and they heard Him teach in their streets. They will knock on the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us, but the Lord will tell them that He doesn't know them. The Master will have to reject the lost because they have been workers of iniquity (13:24-27).

There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth as the lost stand cast outside looking at Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, within the kingdom of God. The saved will come from the four corners of the world—east, west, north, and south taking their places as they sit down in the Kingdom of God. Those who were despised (last) shall be first, and those who were honored (first) will be last (13:28-30).