

The Narrow Door

Luke 13:22-35

As Jesus travels towards Jerusalem, someone asks him a question. V23, 'Lord, will those who are saved be few?'

Don't duck the question

In response Jesus turns the question around. Instead of, 'will the saved be few?' he asks, 'what about you? Will you be among the saved?'

When the Holy Spirit begins to convict us on some issue, we have a fine way of diverting attention from ourselves onto others, but Jesus relentlessly turns it back to home: what about you? He tells his listeners, 'strive to make sure *you* are counted among the saved.' He's not talking about earning our salvation, but having an attitude of mind that sees this is of vital importance. When it comes to salvation, the question *Jesus* has is about you and none of us can afford to duck it.

The Door is Narrow

There is a door. God has provided a way through from here to there. But there is only one door. Whatever anyone else says, Jesus says there is one way back to the Father, and it's him.

But he also says the door is narrow. From Jesus' parable we can see that familiarity with Jesus or his teaching, is not enough. What matters is being in real relationship with Him. It is being known by Him as His friend. And that can never be earned. It can only be received as his gift to you.

But it's a time-limited offer. Not only is the door narrow, Jesus says it's also soon to be shut. One day Jesus will call time on our lives and he urges us to walk through the door before that happens. Failure to do so will be regretted for all eternity.

While it is clear that many of his contemporaries declined his offer, Jesus says that a multitude from across the globe will accept it. The old dividing wall between Jew and Gentile has been broken down and Gentiles will sit and eat with Abraham. It's not about your racial origin or your heritage, it's about how you respond to Jesus.

The Great Reversal

Jesus tells his listeners the last day will throw up some surprises. The first will be last and the last first. People who thought they were at the front of the queue won't get in, and those they looked down on will take their places. That should teach us who, by worldly standards, are first-in-the-queue people, profound humility. But the reason that we who deserve to be at the back of the queue get in at all is because Jesus went through the great reversal for us. He who, by all heavenly standards, was first, became last, that we might enter through the door.

When Others Differ

The exclusivity of Jesus, the narrowness of the door and the reality of hell provoke opposition. What can we learn from Jesus about how to handle that? 1. Don't flinch from the truth. He called a spade a spade, or a fox a fox. 2. Extend the heart-broken compassion of Jesus for his enemies to those who oppose you. 3. Be secure in the knowledge that God is working everything out. He is in control.