

“The Narrow Door”

Pastor Jeff Alexander + August 21, 2016

Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem. His work in this earthly city will guarantee entrance into the heavenly city for all who trust in Him.

**Hebrews 12:22**

You have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly!

Having taught with parables about the kingdom of God, Jesus now faces a question about salvation:

**Luke 13:23**

Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?”

Jesus responds with an admonition:

**Luke 13:24**

“Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.”

The wording Jesus uses (“make every effort”) describes the continuous struggle of an athlete to complete the race.

Only through the struggle of repentance and faith can a person enter the “narrow door” into life everlasting.

Jesus speaks a warning to those who only know Him from a distance:

**Luke 13:25-27**

“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.’ “But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ “Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ “But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’”

Jesus says there are only two ways in which people will spend eternity:

**Luke 13:28-29**

“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. People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.”

Jesus turns the initial question back on the one who asked it. His words lead the hearer to ask: “What about me? Am I saved?” This reversal foreshadows the Great Reversal that is ahead!

**Luke 13:30**

“Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.”