

**A
Warning
and
a
Promise**

Luke 13:22-35

Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem.



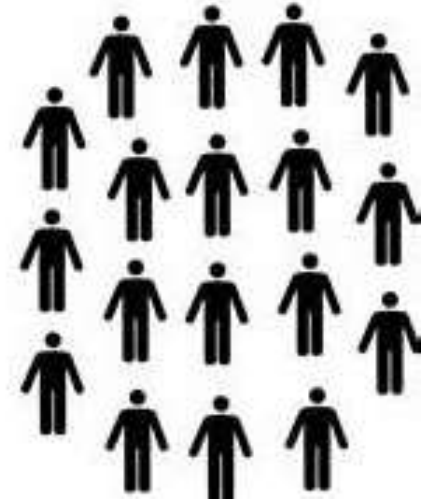
Someone asked him,
"Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?"

An opportunity for more
of Jesus' teaching



Why did he ask?

- 1, Speculation?
- 2, Viewing present reactions to Jesus' fading popularity?
- 3, Personal spiritual concern?



The Answer

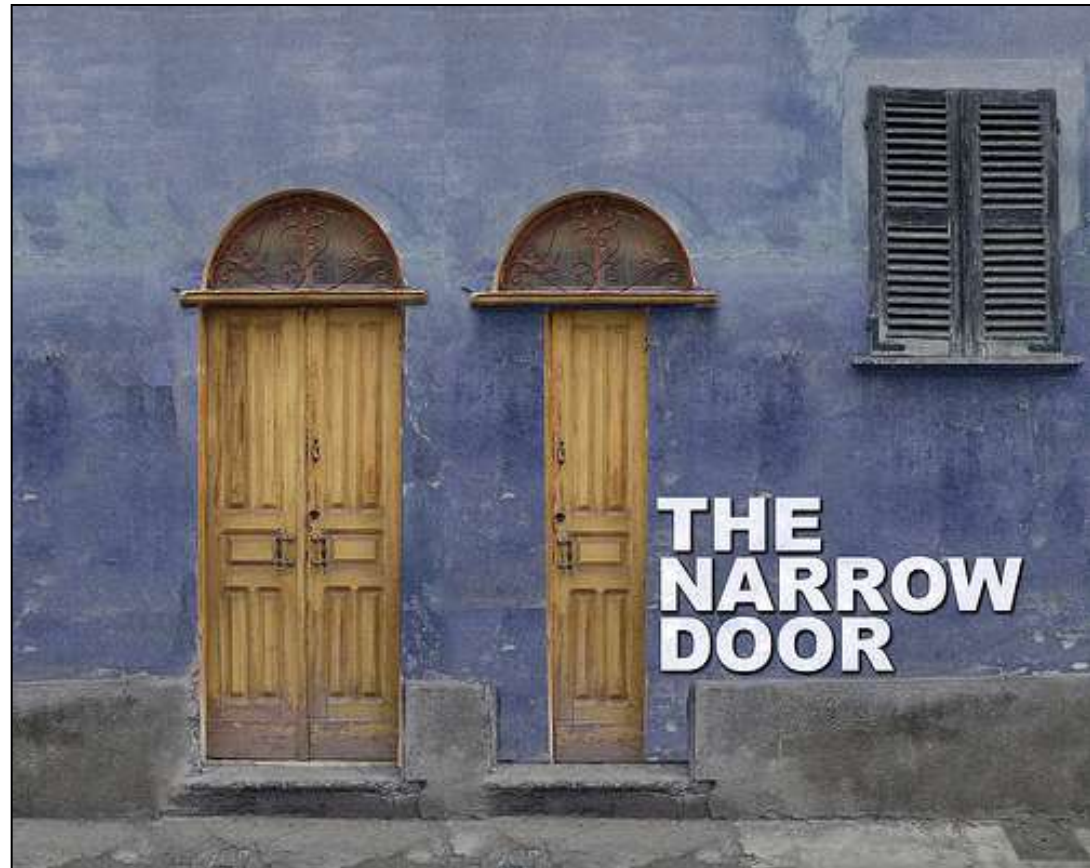
He said to them, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door,

You are responsible
for your response !
Agonise!

Why is it narrow ?

Limited access
(not numbers but route)

The importance of
a dodgy full-stop



many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door,

Time is limited

Try while it is open

When will the door close for you?
... see King Herod later

Who is the house owner ?

When will it finally close?

After that it's too late !



you will stand outside knocking and pleading,
'Sir, open the door for us.'



Too late !!!
All those missed opportunities

But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'

The vital difference between acquaintance and relationship



“know” is a relationship word

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!'

The danger of assuming too much

We ate and drank. Shared time together – in the same room
(In church, with church people etc.)

You taught
but did they listen and respond?
(Just hearers of the 'word')



Go from my presence

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.

Weeping – regrets
Gnashing – anger

At the judgement we will see two groups

1, THOSE IN THE KINGDOM

Ancestors & prophets
(sent to warn & turn you back to God)

and

2, THOSE OUTSIDE THE KINGDOM

You
thrown out = rejected, worthless



People will come from east and west and north and south,

Other nations will come in.



and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.



Reserved

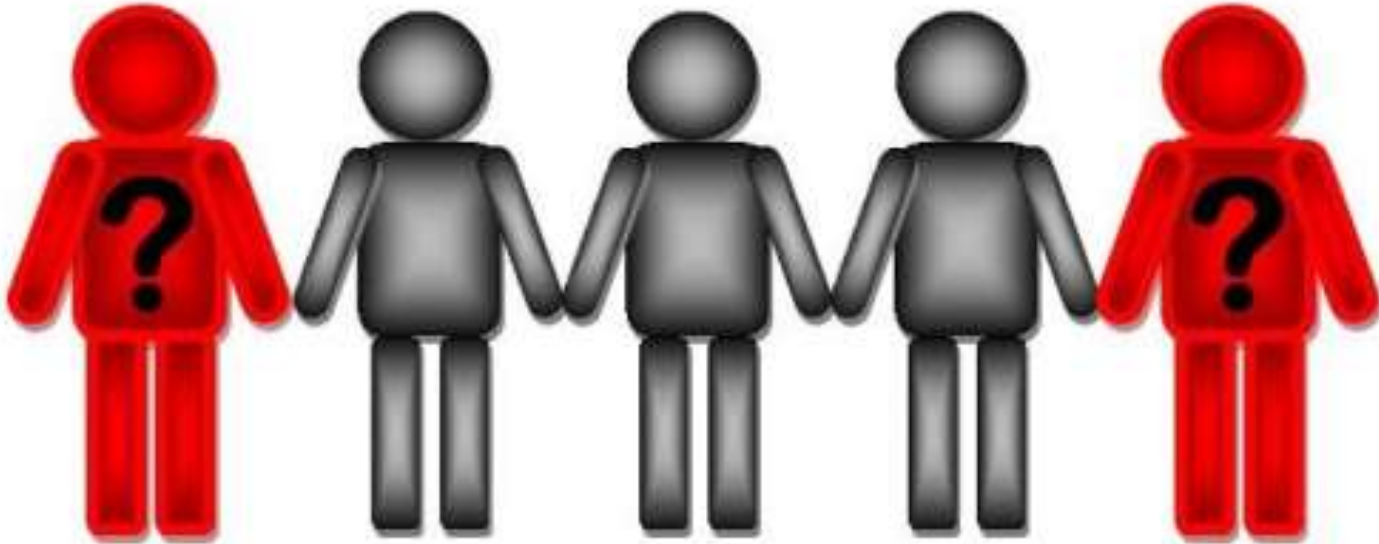
Their places ?

Provided by the grace of God
as they respond to gospel
of Jesus' death and resurrection.

In the Father's house ?

Do you have your place?

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



What is Jesus saying?

Some at the end of the time play a prominent role?
Some from the early days less prominent than they thought,
or only get in at the end when they should have played their
part in the whole process?

At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you."

Herod Antipas



Why is Herod afraid of Jesus?

Guilty conscience ?

Why did they tell Jesus?

To scare him/discredit him for running
They wanted to get him to go away?

He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.'"



You tell him (one of your kind?) –
I'm having nothing to do with him –
Jesus' last words to him ...
too late for him!!!

My set purpose –



Still work to do
on the third day "I'm finished"
ambiguous = job done ... I die

In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day--for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!



The Centre of Israel's Theocracy
supposed to be God's Head-quarters
but is the centre of resistance.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.

Jesus' heart for this people and nation



The time I have invested in trying to bring you to myself

Your regular reaction ? Not willing !!! (self rules the heart)
Your regular response ? - kill the messengers

Look, your house is left to you (desolate).

Consequences

“My Father’s House” becomes just “your house”

As in Ezekiel’s day – God is going to leave the building.



Look, your house is left to you (desolate).

Consequences



The inevitable destruction came
because of the rejection of God's Messiah

In AD 70 the 'shell' was destroyed.

A Staggering Promise

I tell you, you will not see me again until you say,
“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”

The end is not the end !

You will not see me again - a very long wait

Until – you will see me again

Who will see him again?

Jerusalem

the centre of the Jewish people's homeland Israel

The CITY and the PEOPLE

(This explains the present and future spiritual battle
behind the middle east problems)

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

A Palm Sunday “re-run”

but not with just his few followers

The national recognition of Israel’s true King – the Messiah -
Jesus!



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

It is a response of faith that is saving faith.

The first are the last to receive him
– AND THEN HE RETURNS



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

And for you and me ???

Have you seen him by faith ?

Have you said to him,

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”?

The King is coming again.

The Sprit and the Bride say “Come ! Lord Jesus!”

