

Why are Few Saved? – Luke 13:22-30

- I. Introduction
 - a. The end of Jesus' earthly ministry is rapidly approaching
 - b. This is the last time that he will visit many of these towns before his death, resurrection and ascension
 - c. He is asked a question, "Are there few who are saved?"
 - d. His answer is essentially yes
 - e. The gospel is for all, but there are many who will not be saved because they failed to make the most of their spiritual opportunities
- II. KEY THOUGHT: We will examine three things that will not keep many people from being saved, and one thing that does
- III. Few are lost because of a lack of desire
 - a. Who does not want to be saved?
 - i. Many will seek – v. 24
 - ii. They will say, "Lord, open for us!" – v. 25
 - iii. They want in
 - b. It generally won't be because of a lack of desire
- IV. Few are lost because of a lack of opportunity
 - a. Jesus had been right there with them – v. 26
 - b. For three years he had travelled all over the Jewish countryside
 - c. The gate had been open for them – v. 24
 - d. It has remained open for us for nearly 2000 years
 - e. It is a narrow gate, but who can't get through a narrow gate?
 - f. Few will be lost b/c of lack of opportunity
- V. Few are lost because of a lack of warning
 - a. Jesus is giving that warning
 - b. The door will be shut
 - i. For them, by the end of Jesus' ministry
 - ii. For us
 1. By the end of our lives
 2. By Jesus' return
 3. By the end of our season of spiritual interest – Eccl. 12:1
 - c. The consequences of missing the opportunity have been declared
 - i. They knew Jesus, but he did not know them – v. 25, 27
 - ii. Sent away, thrust out – v. 27, 28
 - iii. Identified as workers of iniquity – v. 27
 - iv. Tormented by sorrow and regret – v. 28
 1. Too late
 2. Realizing too late
 - a. How wonderful an opportunity it was – v. 28
 - b. And how many others took advantage of it – v. 29
 - d. We still are being warned today
 - e. Few are lost b/c of a lack of warning
- VI. Many are lost because of a lack of priority or urgency
 - a. We must enter while the gate is open

- b. The nature of opportunity
 - i. It must be acted upon to be profited from
 - ii. Strike while the iron is hot
 - iii. Make hay while the sun shines
- c. We must meet an opportunity with diligent action to make the most of it
- d. “Strive to enter in...” – v. 24
- e. It requires putting what is first for us on the back burner so what is truly first can be attended to
 - i. Four quadrants –
 - 1. Important and Urgent – must be done now - **NECESSITY**
 - a. Crises, pressing problems, deadline-driven meetings/reports
 - 2. Important, but not Urgent – must be done eventually, - **PRODUCTIVITY & BALANCE**
 - a. Preparation, prevention, planning, relationship building, re-creation, values clarification, maintenance
 - 3. Urgent, but not Important – does it really need done? - **DECEPTION**
 - a. Needless interruptions, unnecessary reports/meetings/calls, emails, mail, other people’s minor issues
 - b. There is so much vying for our attention
 - i. Limited time offers
 - ii. The news or gossip of the day
 - iii. Telemarketers
 - iv. How much of our email and mail falls in this category?
 - c. If we don’t give it our attention now it will be meaningless or useless
 - d. Most of the time, that’s ok
 - 4. Neither Important, nor urgent – why do it – **WASTE AND EXCESS**
 - a. Trivia, busywork, time-wasters, escape activities, excessive internet/TV/relaxation/gaming
 - ii. How many of us spend our time on things in areas three and four?!
 - iii. That is how we end up wasting our opportunities and our lives
- f. There is nothing more important as attending to our relationship with Almighty God
 - i. If we are not in a right relationship with God, there is nothing more urgent

VII. Conclusion

- a. What is the next step you need to take in your spiritual journey?
 - i. Ask for a Bible study?
 - ii. Make or renew a commitment to spend time each day connecting and communing with God?

- iii. Increase your involvement in the work of the church or in the lives of your brethren?
- iv. Drive a few more nails in the coffin of the old man of sin?
- v. Reach out to another person in order to provide them with spiritual opportunities that they would not otherwise have?
- vi. Ask for forgiveness or offer forgiveness to another?
- vii. Become a Christian?
- b. Whatever the next step you need to take spiritually, meet it with diligent action while the door of opportunity is still open
 - i. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- c. INVITATION