
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 well 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