

Pre-Sermon: This is to help you prepare for hearing from God's Word.

- Prayerfully read Luke 13:22-30
- What stands out to you from this passage about salvation?

Sermon Questions: This will help you evaluate how well you were listening.

- Why should Christians love thinking about the subject of salvation?
- What are some things Luke has taught us already about salvation?
- Today we were looking at what Jesus says about salvation, and what in particular did we want to stress?
- Are people interested in the subject of salvation? Why or why not?
- Why did we say it is sometimes so difficult to get people personally concerned about the subject of salvation?
- What can happen to us as a church as we are surrounded by people who aren't very urgent about this subject and why is that such a problem?
- Jesus is pleading with a group of people to take the issue of whether or not they are saved seriously in this passage. How does he do so?

Sermon Outline: A sermon is much more than an outline, but perhaps this outline will help you follow the sermon.

In a world filled with people who don't really care what the Bible says about salvation, I want you to look at Jesus with me as he talks to people who are not sensing the urgency either and be reminded why this is the single most important issue. We need to take salvation seriously because:

1. The entrance into salvation is like a NARROW DOOR.
2. There is a time when THAT DOOR WILL BE SHUT.
3. Which side of the door someone is on when it is shut, WILL HAVE ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES.

Synopsis: This is a short summary to help you reflect on the message.

We are going to look at Luke 13:22-30 today and talk about one of my favorite subjects. The subject of salvation. And we are going to say something very simple, and yet something that needs to be said over and over.

The one issue you should be most concerned about in life is whether or not you are saved.

I want to stress that today especially, because as we look at this passage, Luke 13:24 is the key verse. When Jesus commands us to "strive to enter through the narrow door," He is commanding us to take the issue of salvation very seriously.

It should not surprise you that we say this issue is the issue that matters most because when we talk about salvation, we are talking about how to be delivered from death, an end to all the wars and conflict in this world right now, freedom from oppression, a right relationship with God, eternal life and more! This is a big, big subject. How can any issue be more vital than those? It is a subject you would think people would be interested in and feel a sense of urgency about.

But most people don't. They don't take what the Bible says about Jesus and salvation very seriously. Their attitude can impact us, even as believers. What the Bible teaches about salvation can easily start to feel less important and urgent than it really is. That's a tragedy! There is a way God saves. We are on the planet to tell people about it. In a world filled with people who don't really care what

the Bible says about salvation, I want you to look at Jesus with me today as he talks to people who are not sensing the urgency either and be reminded why this is the single most important issue.

First by having you think about the entrance to this great eternal kingdom that God's got planned as being like **A NARROW DOOR**. The Bible has all kinds of different images to help us picture how good the kingdom is going to be. One of the most common that Jesus uses is of this great big banquet. There's a banquet God has planned for the end of the universe. A feast. A celebration! And everybody is invited, but not everybody is going to get in, because not everybody is willing to enter through the one door God has provided into the kingdom.

Even if the people around us don't feel like this is an urgent issue, it is an urgent issue, because there is a door into this glorious future, but there also is a time when that door will be closing. If you are going to remember why this issue matters so much first, think of a narrow door, and second think about **THAT DOOR BEING SHUT**. The opportunity to enter into the salvation God's provided is limited. God's determined that this life matters. This life right now is a person's one opportunity to enter into God's kingdom, through Jesus, and no one knows when that opportunity is going to be over. Once the Master of the House gets up and shuts the door you can knock and knock and knock and say Lord, you know me, I did this and I did that, but if you didn't enter into a personal relationship with Jesus through faith, submitting to what the Bible says about Him, and embracing it for yourselves, and expressing that faith, through repentance, turning, from your sin, and bowing the knee to him as Lord, He's going to say, 'I don't know you.' Not because he's unkind, but because you are a sinner who deserves God's judgment.

That's just reality.

Salvation is a serious subject. It's a joyful subject. But it's also a serious subject, because you need to be saved from something and it's not just your circumstances or the difficulties of this world, it is the punishment of God that your disobedience deserves. There's only one way to be saved from that and it's this narrow door named Jesus, which is a third reason we've got to remember how important this subject is. There is a time when this narrow door gets shut and **WHICH SIDE OF THE DOOR YOU ARE WHEN IT CLOSSES HAS ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES**. We live in a world where many people are assuming if there is salvation they are going to experience it, and they are not. But it doesn't have to be like that. God's so good. God sent His Son into this world to save, to do what you could not and Jesus is a very gracious Savior. He says come to me, you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

And church, that's good news.

And a big part of why we are on the planet is to tell people about it. We should never get tired of taking that message out. We must never stop feeling a sense of urgency. While there will be many people who hear the gospel and think it's foolish, there will also be many who hear, believe and enter in through the narrow door and are going to be saved and honored when Jesus returns and that is worth giving our lives for.

Application Questions: We can't just read these passages, study them. It's vital you respond.

- Do you believe what Jesus is saying about salvation?
- If you do believe this, how should you respond?
- How did this message impact the way you think and how should it impact the way you live?
- How seriously do you take the issue of salvation? How important a subject is this to you really?