



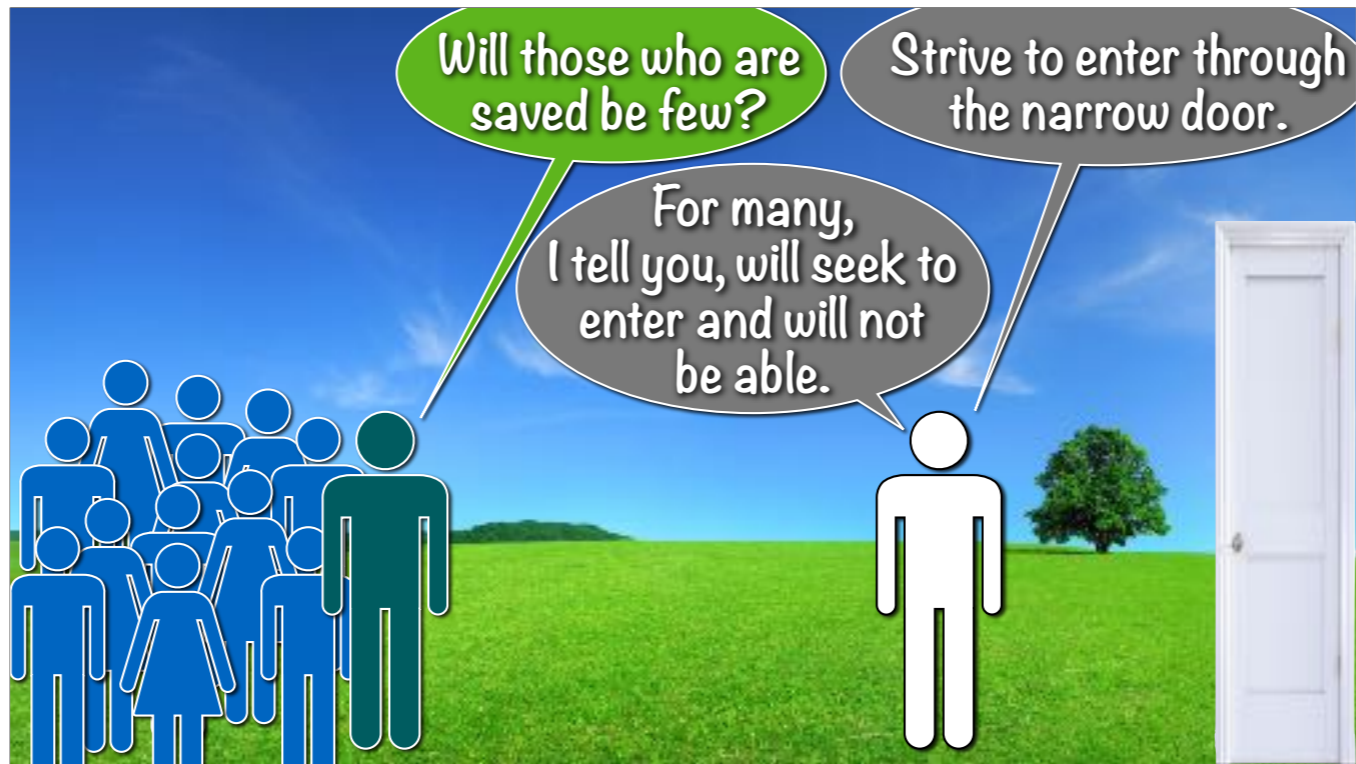
- Luke 13:22-30



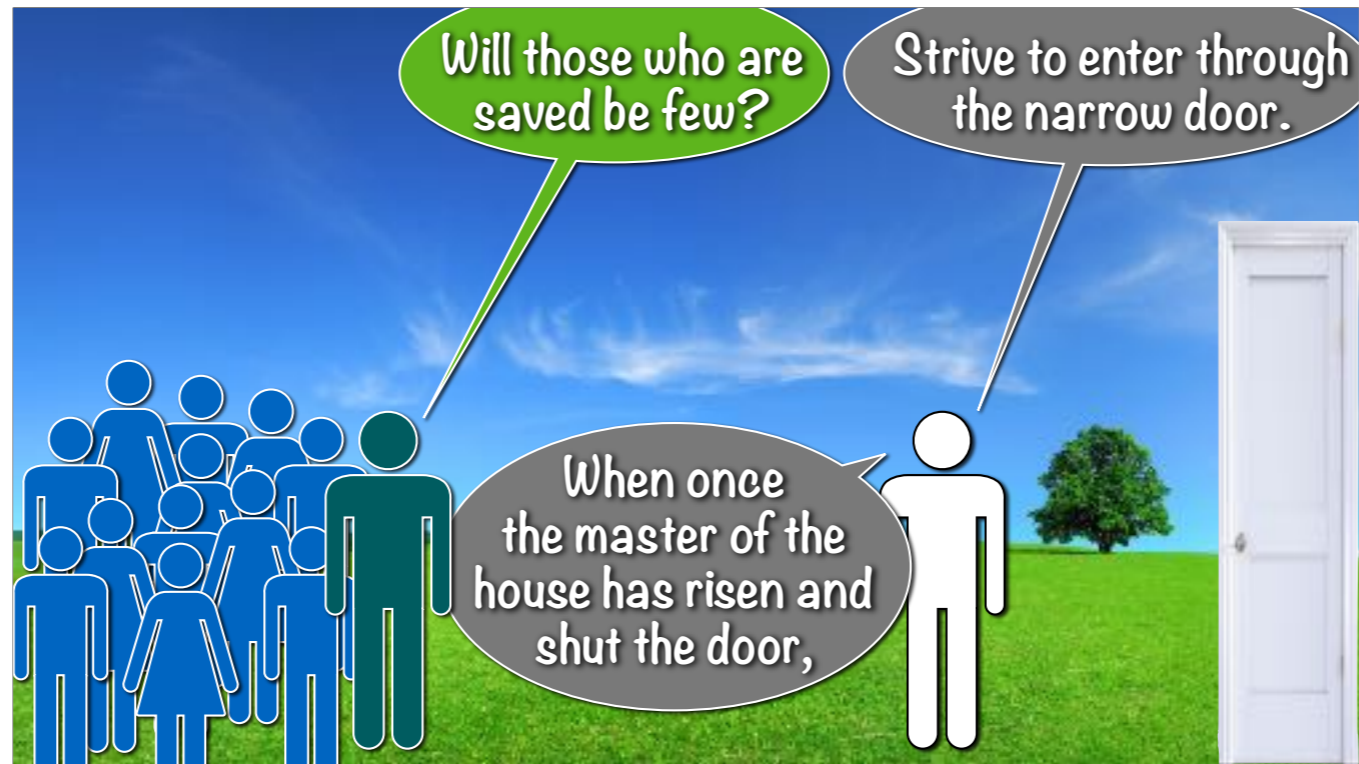
- Luke 13:22-23 (ESV) 22 He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. 23 And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?”
- We don’t know what this person was thinking ...
  - But it’s not unusual for us to try to get involved in hypothetical debates about God and His Word
    - Philosophical and theological debates
    - If someone believes, but dies on the way to be baptized, will they be saved?
  - Or maybe it was simpler? Jews v. Gentiles? Our sect v. other sects?



- Strive to enter through the narrow door.
- Jesus doesn't join in the "game" of this person.
- He doesn't try to answer the question as a generalized, bible discussion
  - He makes it individual.
  - Because salvation is not something to merely be debated, but about my soul.
- Strive: strenuous effort
  - Was this person complacent about his salvation?
- Narrow door: limited access
  - Not everyone will be saved.
- Enter: A choice we must make.



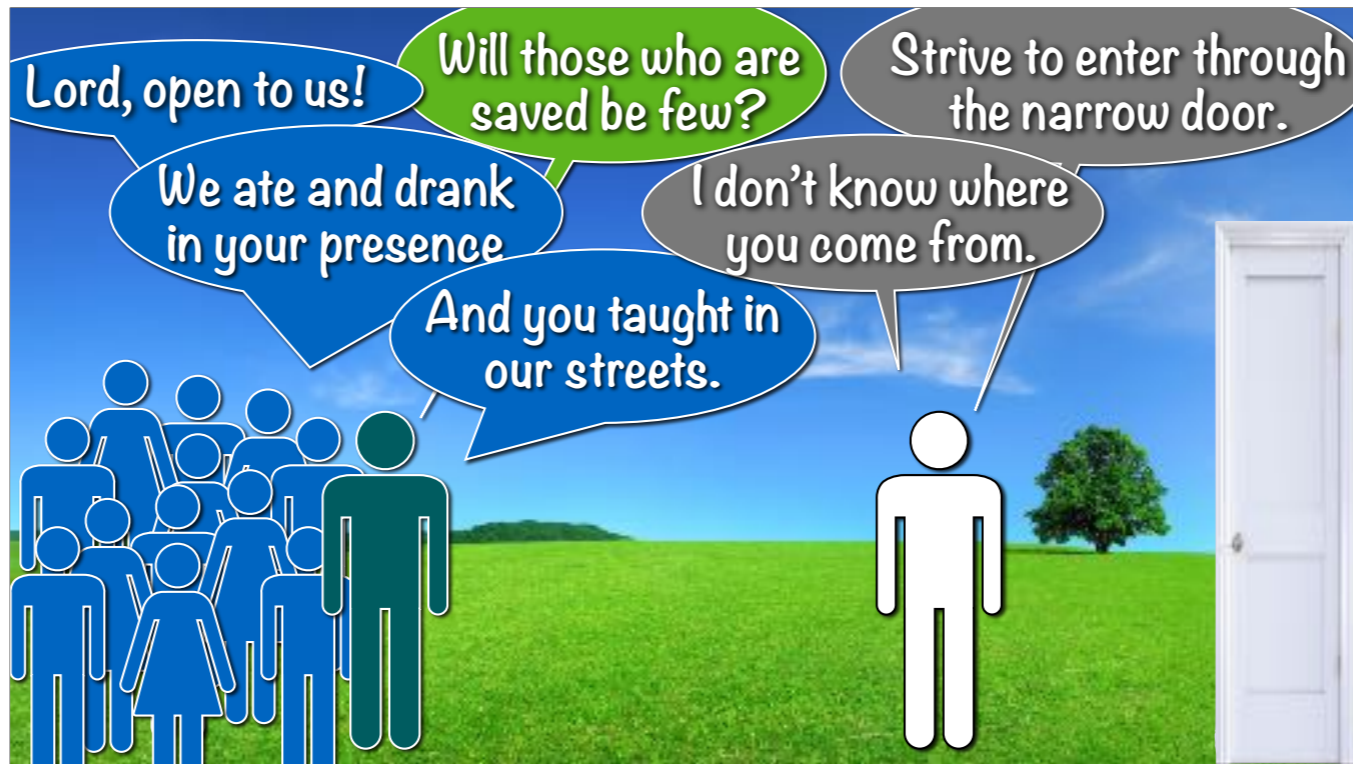
- For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.
- Seek (vs. strive)
  - That's effort!
- Will not be able
  - What is keeping them from entering?
- Again ...
  - not everyone will be saved
  - Even some who are seeking to be saved won't be able!
    - Sobering thought.



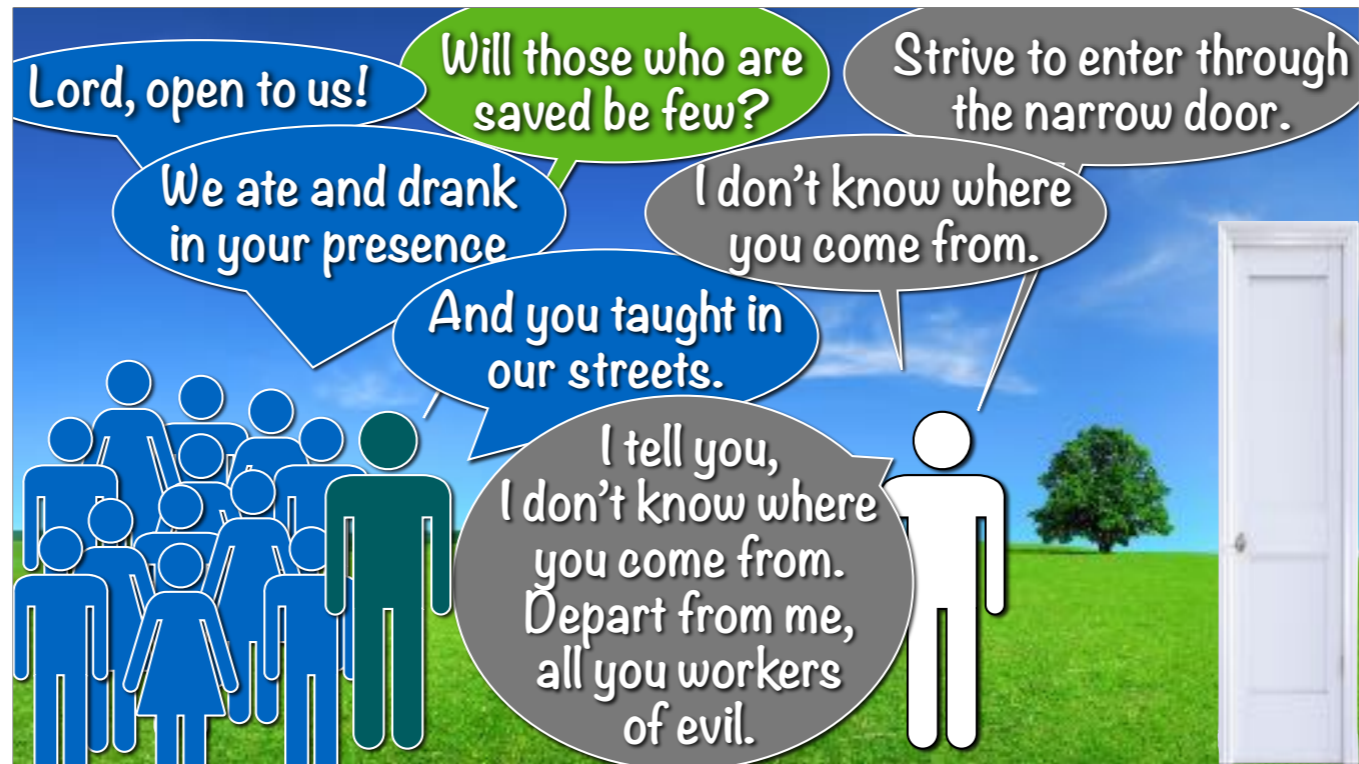
- When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door
  - This is a surprising statement.
  - Is the master of the house God?
    - Context seems to indicate that
  - Isn't God supposed to be open to salvation for everyone?
    - 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
- Why would God close the door on those who want to be saved?
  - (We'll talk more about this later ... keep it in mind.)



- and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,'
  - Do you hear the expectation that the Master will open to them? No doubt in their mind.
- then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.'
  - This is another unexpected response.
  - More in a moment...

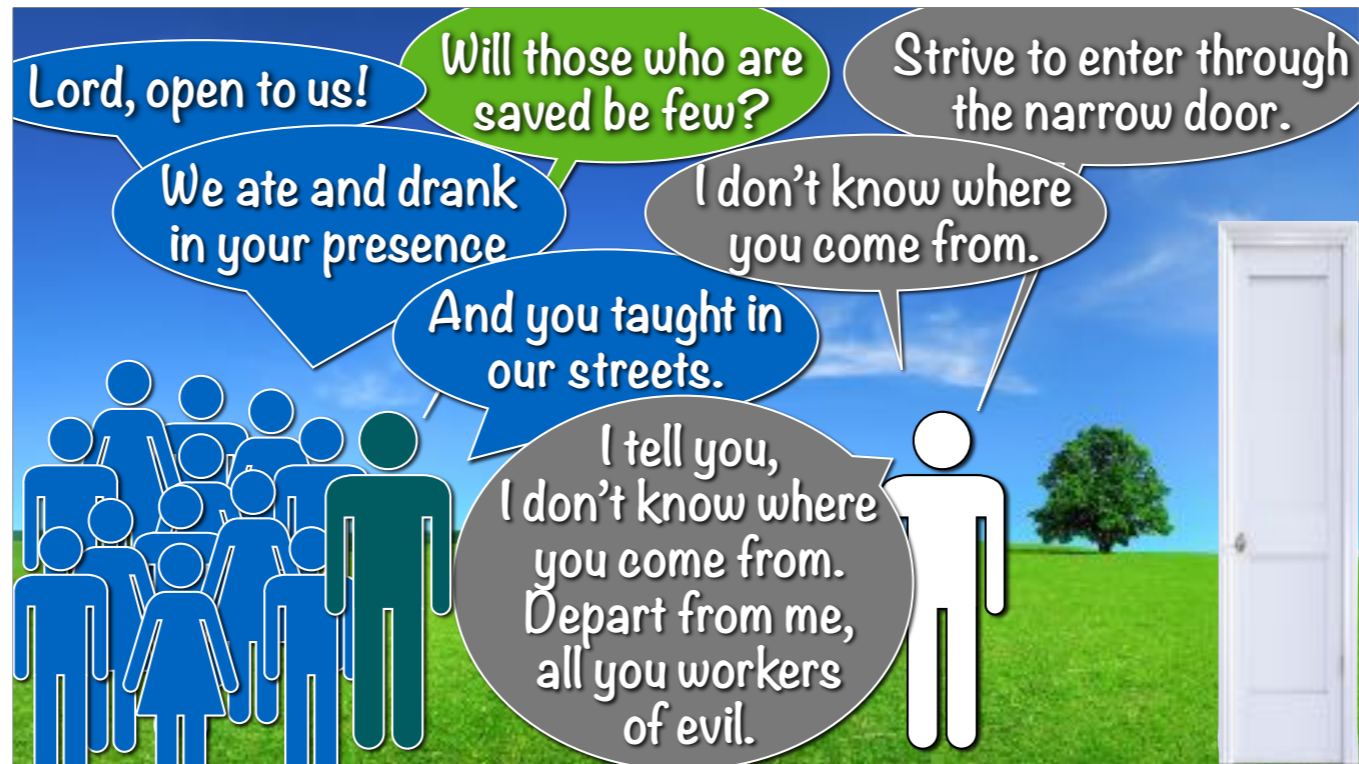


- Luke 13:26 Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.'
  - They are claiming not only relationship, but also that they listened to his teaching, approved of what he said.
- Not as easy as they: some had condemned Jesus for being a drunkard and a glutton.

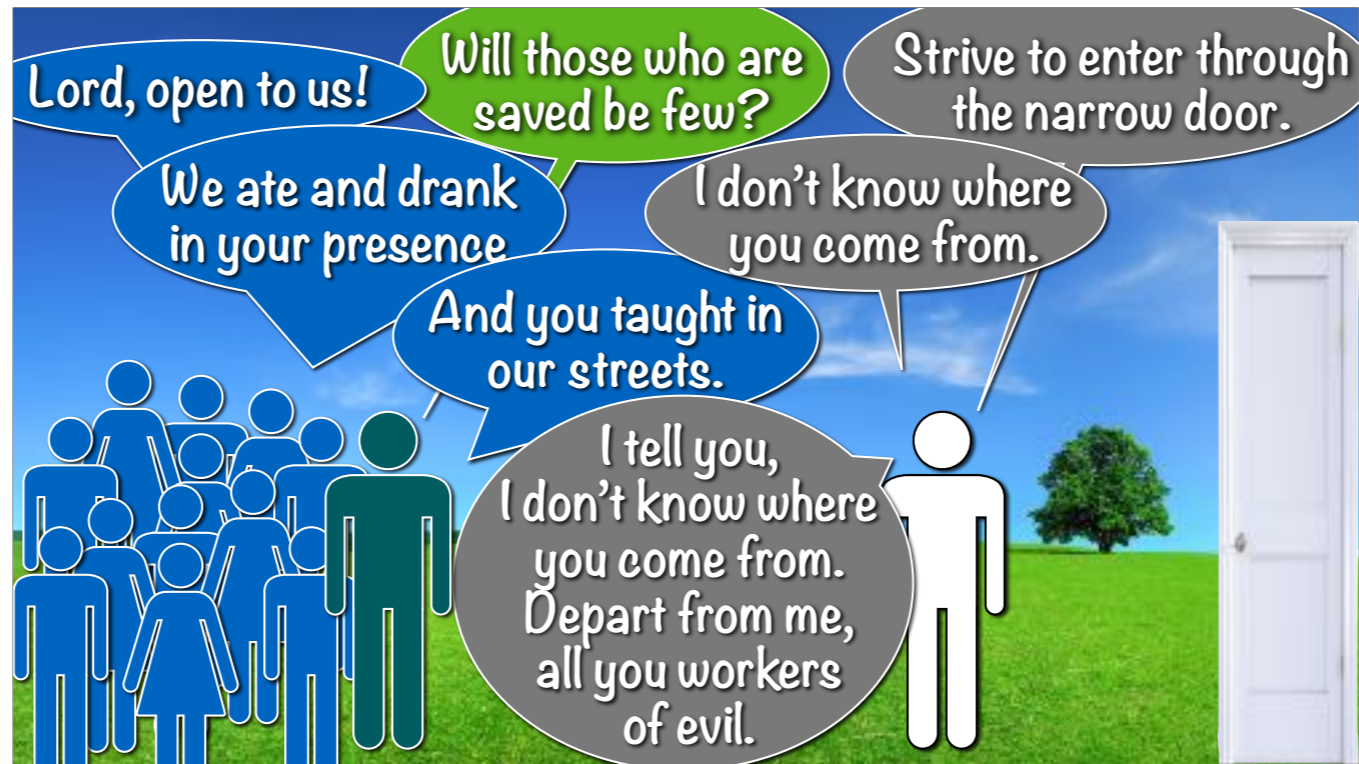


- Luke 13:27 But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!'
- I don't know where you come from.
  - Repeated
  - Later he'll make reference to "Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob": so I think he's talking about their dependents.

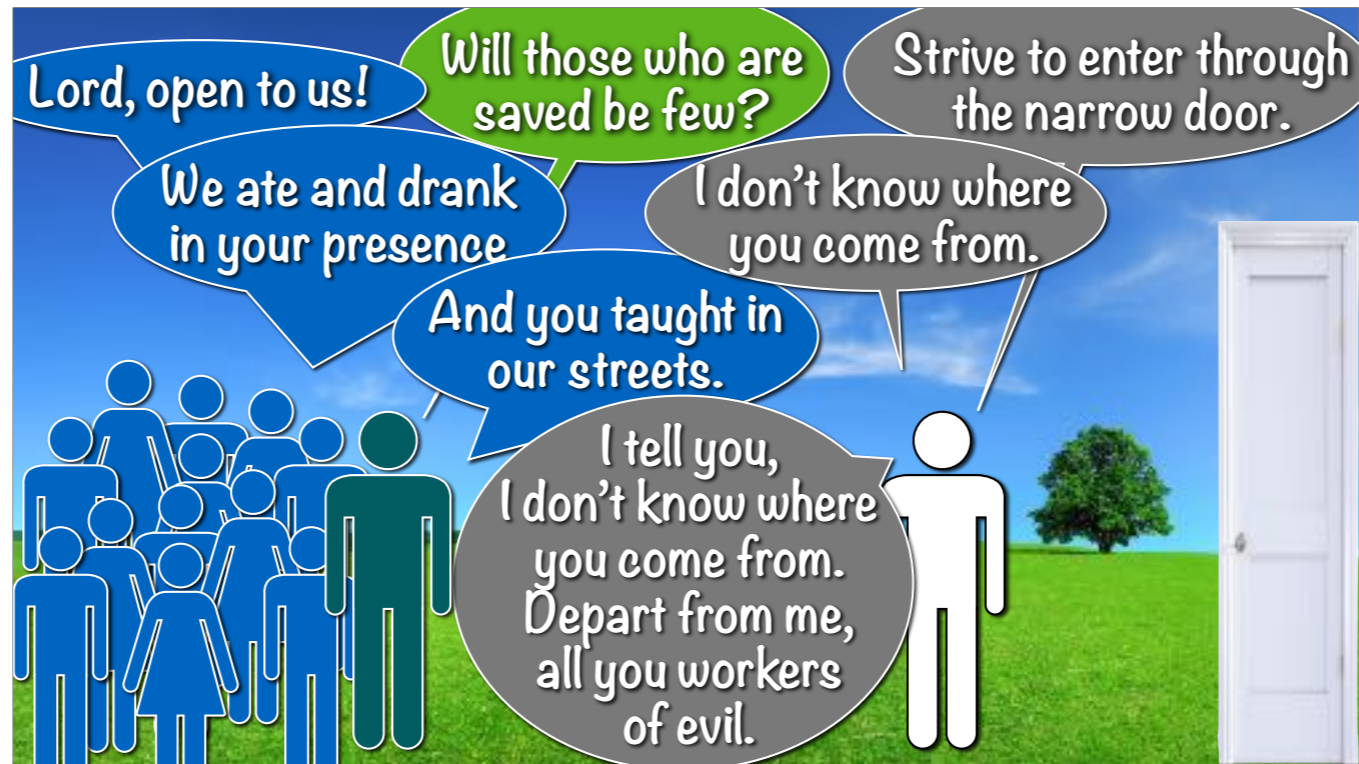




- Romans 9:6-8 (ESV) 6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, 7 and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” 8 This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.



- Depart from me.
  - Rejection.
  - Jesus rejects some people!
  - Personal: it might be me.
  -



- All you workers of evil
  - Why is the door closed?
  - Workers of evil!
    - They didn't think they were doing evil.
      - Romans 10:3 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.
      - 2 Timothy 3:5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.
  - Example of Paul
    - Acts 26:9 "I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth.



- Luke 13:28-29 (ESV) 28 In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. 29 And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God.
- Cast out of the kingdom
  - weeping and gnashing of teeth
- Kingdom of God
  - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, prophets
  - People from everywhere
    - The door is not shut for all!!!
- Only two outcomes for our souls.

Lord, open the door.

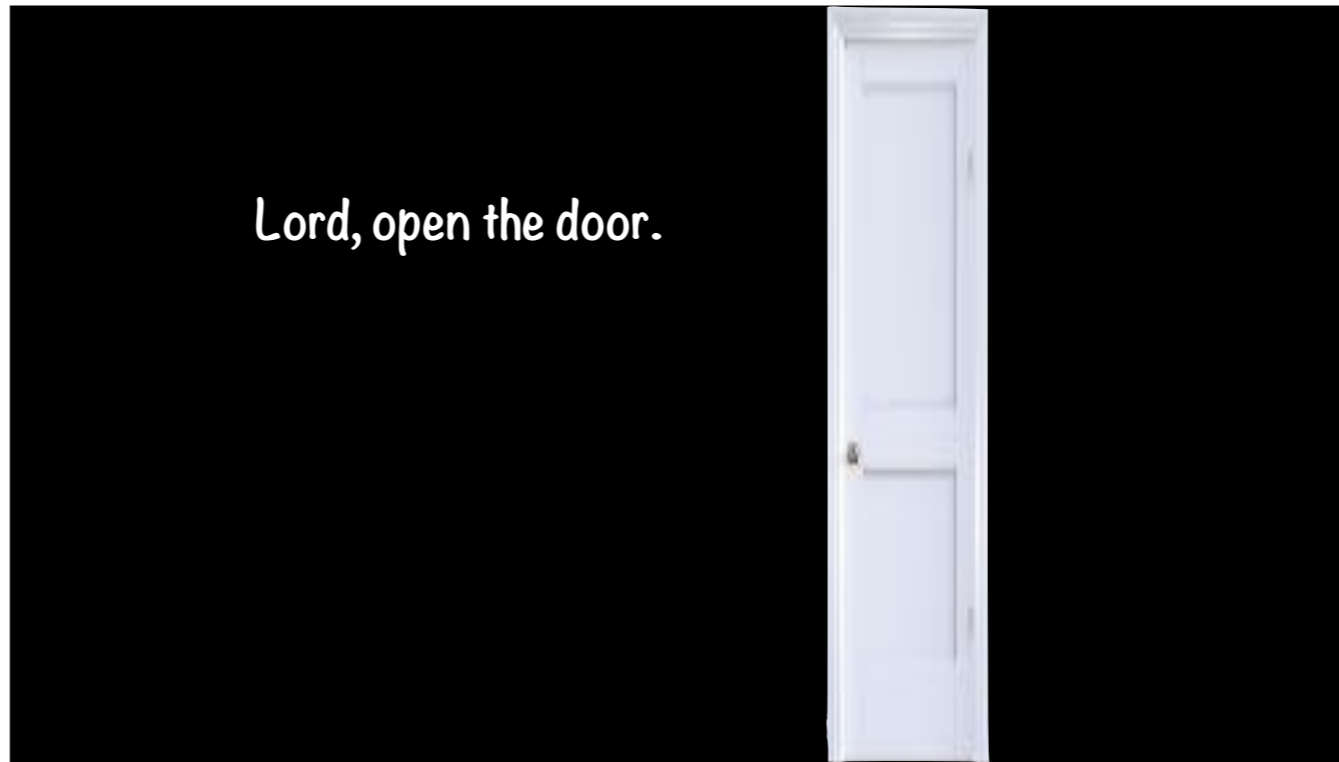


- Lord, Open the Door
  - The assumption of being saved is common, not just then, but now.
  - (Remember that Jesus made this very personal ...
    - don't think in terms of other groups this morning
    - or other people.

Lord, open the door.



- How do I know Jesus?
  - The people of Jesus' day?
    - Prophecies
    - John the Baptizer
    - He shared his time with them ... eating and drinking with them (feeding too)
    - He taught them
    - He often healed them
    - Word spread
    - But for many of them, this was not enough: they still rejected him and despised him and killed him.



- For us?
  - Sadly, there's a lot of misinformation, religious teachers, internet, common knowledge
- Peter
  - 2 Peter 1:16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.
  - 2 Peter 1:19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

Lord, open the door.



- The reality is that they were workers of evil!
  - Matthew 7:21-23 (ESV) 21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”



Lord, open the door.



- Danger that we are deceiving ourselves: we're the right people, church, group
- Is this me?
  - Is it possible that I am a worker of evil and I don't even really know it?
  - Created my own righteousness?
  - My own form of godliness?
  - Do I measure my righteousness by the wrong standards? (Miracles?)



- The Kingdom of God

- Luke 13:18-21 (ESV) 18 He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? 19 It is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches."
- 20 And again he said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? 21 It is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened."

# Kingdom of God Out? or In?



- Cast out (they were the first)
  - “depart from me” - the end of a relationship.
  - “weeping and gnashing of teeth” - suffering
- In the Kingdom
  - Abraham (promise and faith)
  - Recline at table: fellowship, joy, growth, love
- Make a choice
  - It seems simple
  - But Jesus emphasizes that I might miss it.
  - If I don’t strive to enter.



- Strive to Enter
  - Salvation is not easy.
  - Pursue salvation with passion, with zeal, your life depends on it.
- Remember, Jesus made this personal: YOU strive to enter
- How do we enter?

Strive to Enter

I am the door. If anyone enters  
by me, he will be saved and will  
go in and out and find pasture.

John 10:9



- Jesus

- John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

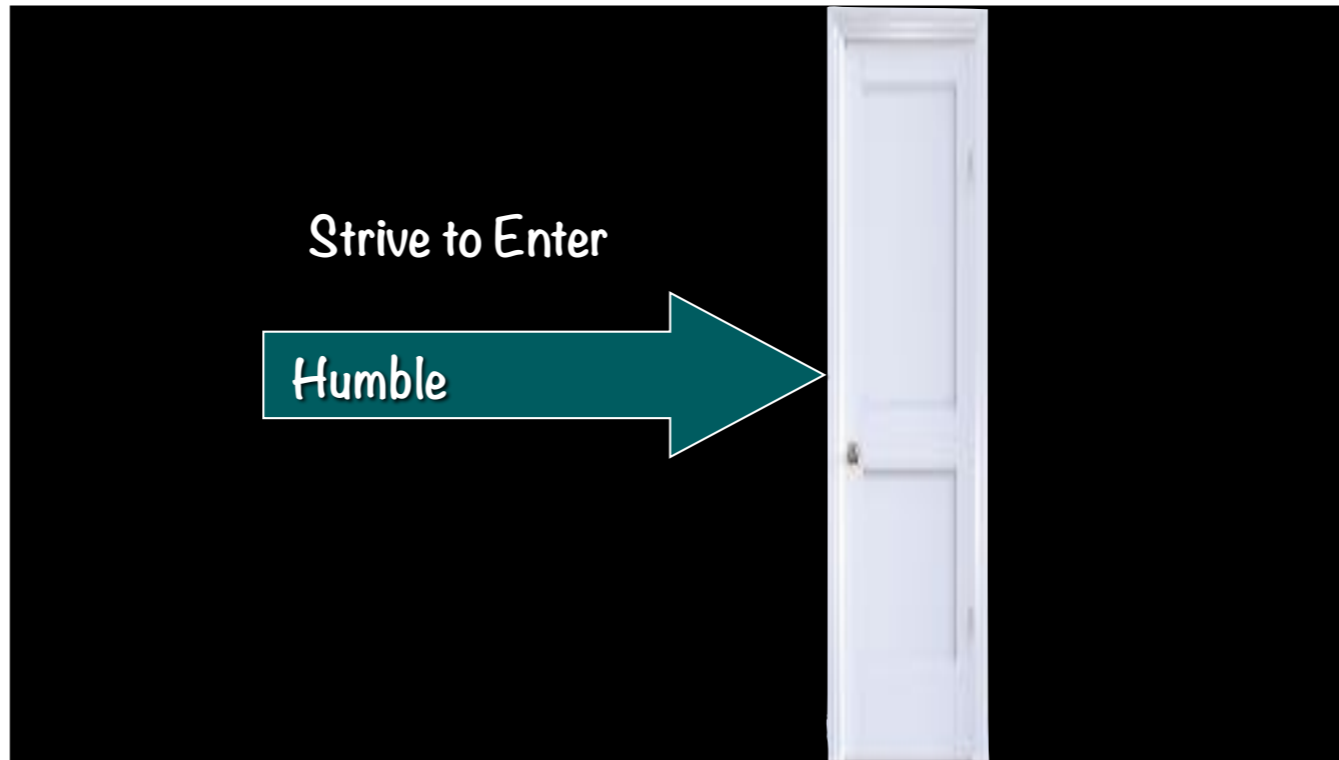
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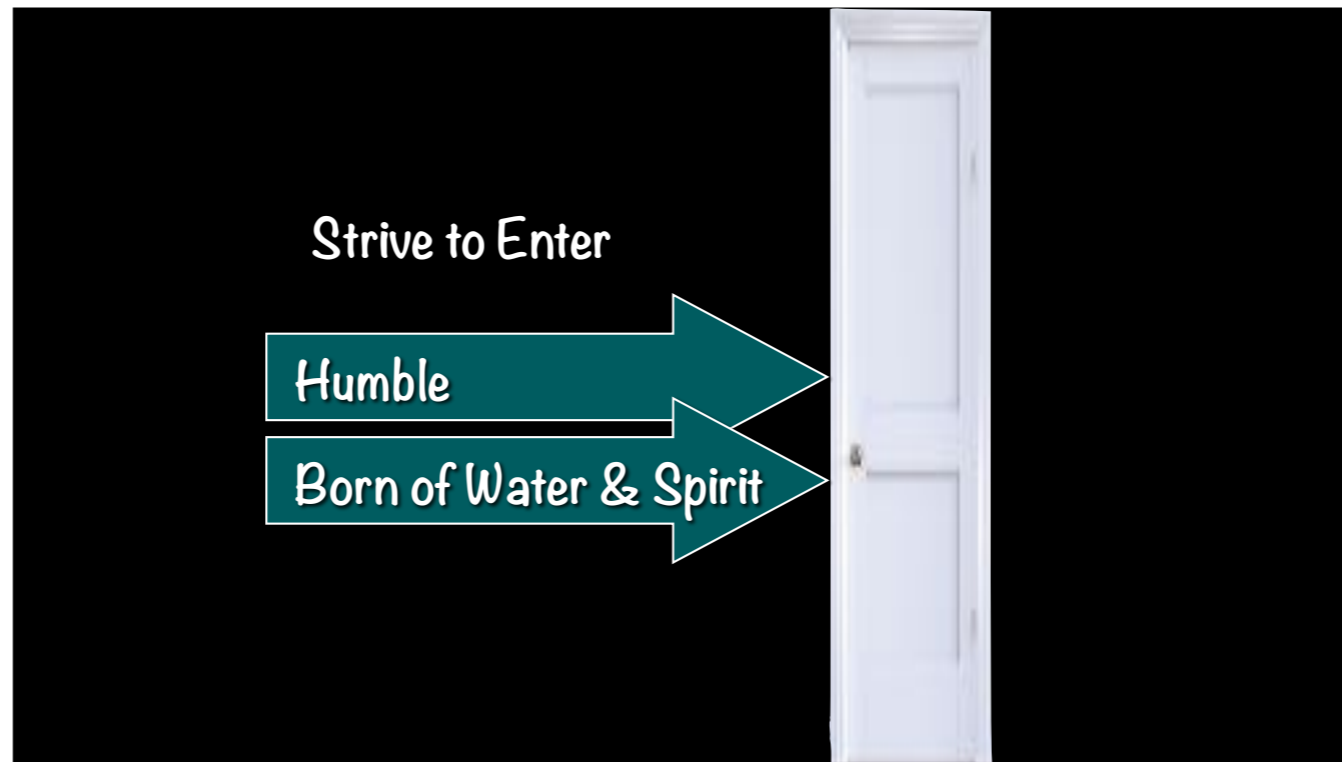
John 10:9



- Ephesians 2:4-10 (ESV) 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.



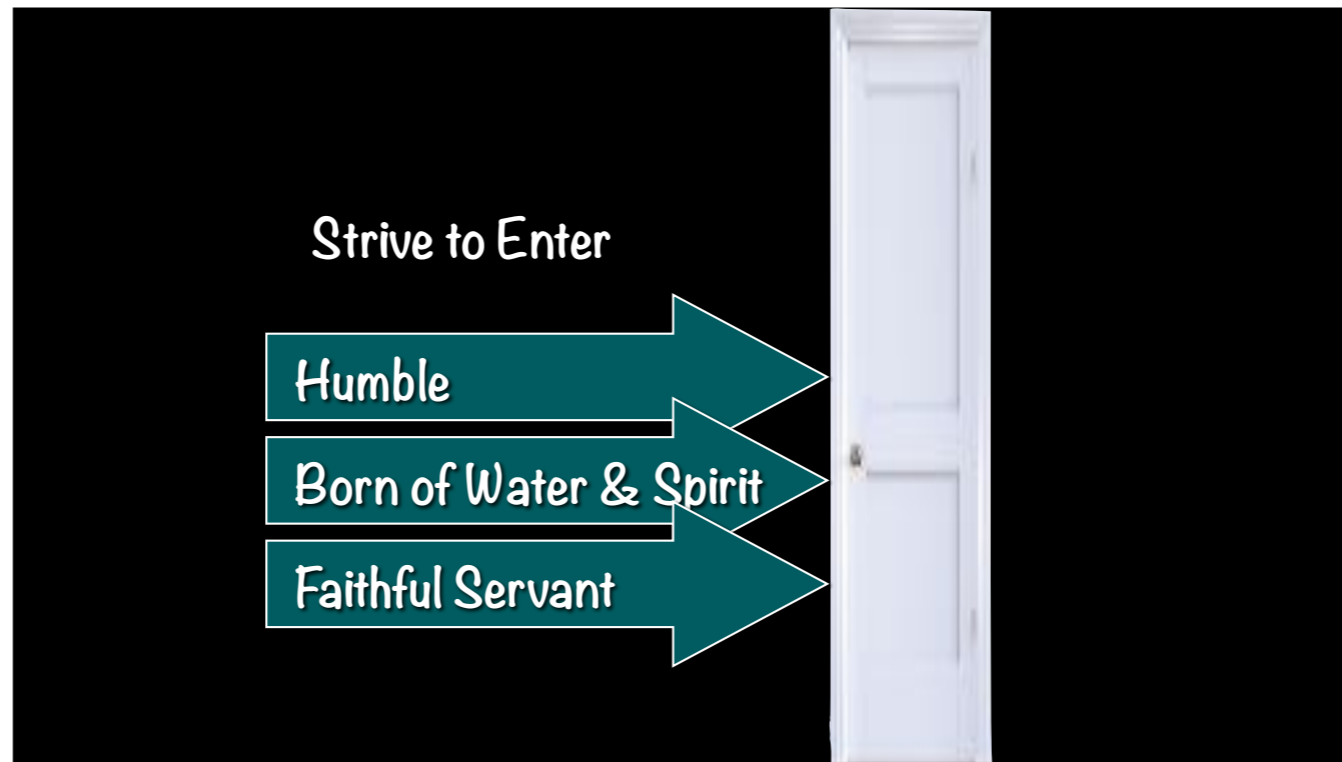
- What do I need to do?
- Humble
  - Matthew 18:2-4 (ESV) 2 And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them 3 and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.



- Born of Water and Spirit

- John 3:5-6 (ESV) 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.





- Be a faithful servant

- Matthew 25:21 (ESV) 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'
- This is more than about what we do.
- It's about how we think about our master, and the choices we make to serve him.



- Righteousness

- Matthew 5:20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
- Not just following the rules, being a legalist.
- It's about my heart, striving to be like my Lord and Savior.



Will those who are  
saved be few?

- Will those who are saved be few?
- Will I be saved?
  - The opportunity is now.
  - Someday the door will be shut ... choose to enter His Kingdom today!

We implore you  
on behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

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## The Narrow Door

Luke 13:22-30

Synopsis: Jesus is asked whether only a few will be saved. Instead of answering that question, he makes us think about our own salvation: will I enter the kingdom of God? So we are warned in this lesson of the danger of deceiving ourselves and the importance of striving to enter the kingdom.

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**