

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship



"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ." Col 1:28

"The Narrow Gate"

Luke 13:22-35

July 2, 2023

Luke 13:22-35

22 And He was passing through from one city and village to another, teaching, and proceeding on His way to Jerusalem.

23 And someone said to Him, "Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?" And He said to them,

24 "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

25 "Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, 'Lord, open up to us!' then He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.'

26 "Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets';

27 and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.'

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 yourselves being thrown out.

29 "And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God.

30 "And behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last."

31 Just at that time some Pharisees approached, saying to Him, "Go away, leave here, for Herod wants to kill You."

32 And He said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My goal.'

33 "Nevertheless I must journey on today and tomorrow and the next day; for it cannot be that a prophet would perish outside of Jerusalem.

34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!

35 "Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you, you will not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"

22 And He was passing through from one city and village to another, teaching, and proceeding on His way to Jerusalem.

- One city and village after another.
- Note: Teaching is the priority, not healing, etc.

Luke 9:51-52

51 Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,

- Jesus is laser focused. He is going to die.

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- Only Noah and family – only 8 people.
- Only Lot and family in Sodom and Gomorrah.
- Only Joshua and Caleb entered the promised land. Everyone else perished in unbelief.
- 851 prophets at Carmel, only Elijah knew God.
- When Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem, he said, "I and a few men with me" came to do the work (Neh. 2:12).
- Isaiah said that when the judgment of God came upon the earth, there would be "few men left." (Isa. 2:6).
- A great multitude was carried away into Babylon; but when they came to Jeremiah in repentance, they said, "we are left but a few, out of many" (Jer. 42:2).

23 And someone said to Him, "Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?" And He said to them,

- Good question - "Why only a few, out of the thousands following Jesus?"
- Believers will never be a majority.

23 And someone said to Him, "Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?" And He said to them,

- Good question - "Why only a few, out of the thousands following Jesus?"
- Never will be a majority.
- Apart from that, Jesus gets right to the heart of the issue for the Jews.

24 "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

- Religious people have too much baggage to go through the door.
- They are not willing to give it up.
- They will "agonize" to do it. It will be emotionally painful. Traditions, rituals, "ruts", lifestyle, discipline.
- You must give it all up. You must come stark-naked through the door. You must declare spiritual bankruptcy. You are going to bring nothing.
- A grocery cart (religion) can be filled with all kinds of self-righteous acts (baby baptism, mass, robes, vestments, all the religious garb, rosary, Mariolatry, church attendance, financial contributions, various good works, pilgrimages. You won't get that through the turn-style. You have to leave it all behind.
- God sees it as "filthy rags" (Is. 64:6) and "manure" (Phil. 3:8).
- The door here is Christ Himself.

John 10:9

9 "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved,

- Jesus is saying, "Aren't I enough?"

“Are there few saved? Then, if you are not one of the few already, strive to be one without delay. I know not who and what you are—but I say boldly, Come to Christ and you shall be saved. The gate that leads to life may be strait—but it was wide enough to admit Manasseh, and Saul of Tarsus—and why not you? The way that leads to life may be narrow—but it is marked by the footsteps of thousands of sinners like yourself. All have found it a good way. All have persevered, and got safely home at last. Jesus Christ invites you. The promises of the Gospel encourage you. Oh, strive to enter in without delay!”

- J.C. Ryle

1877

25 *“Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, ‘Lord, open up to us!’ then He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from.’”*

- God will shut the door at some point and it will be over.
- God shut the door on the ark.
- God doesn’t know them.
- “Christianity is so exclusive” – “only one way.” But it is also inclusive to everyone who desires come that way. Be thankful there is at least one way.

26 *“Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets’;*

- They come back with, “but didn’t we hang out together?”
- People today attend religious services, they hear and use “God talk” language. But they do not know the Savior.

27 *and He will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.’*

- Jesus says none of that matters. The truth is before you and you have either actively rejected me or you have passively rejected me and you are all evildoers.

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 yourselves being thrown out.*

- It’s pretty plain where they are headed – hell.
- Easy to see who is not in hell.

Matt 7:13,14,21-23

13 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.

14 "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’

23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

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29 *“And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God.*

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34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!

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- So here Jesus turns the knife a little more – Gentiles are going to be saved.

Matt 8:11

11 "I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven;

- Everyone is going to be equal – the first, last, and the last, first. i.e. it does not matter when you came into the kingdom. The important thing is, YOU ARE THERE!

31 Just at that time some Pharisees approached, saying to Him, "Go away, leave here, for Herod wants to kill You."

- What??? The Pharisees looking out for Jesus??? Yeah, right!
- They are trying to intimidate Jesus – “better leave the country.”
- They wanted to get rid of Him.

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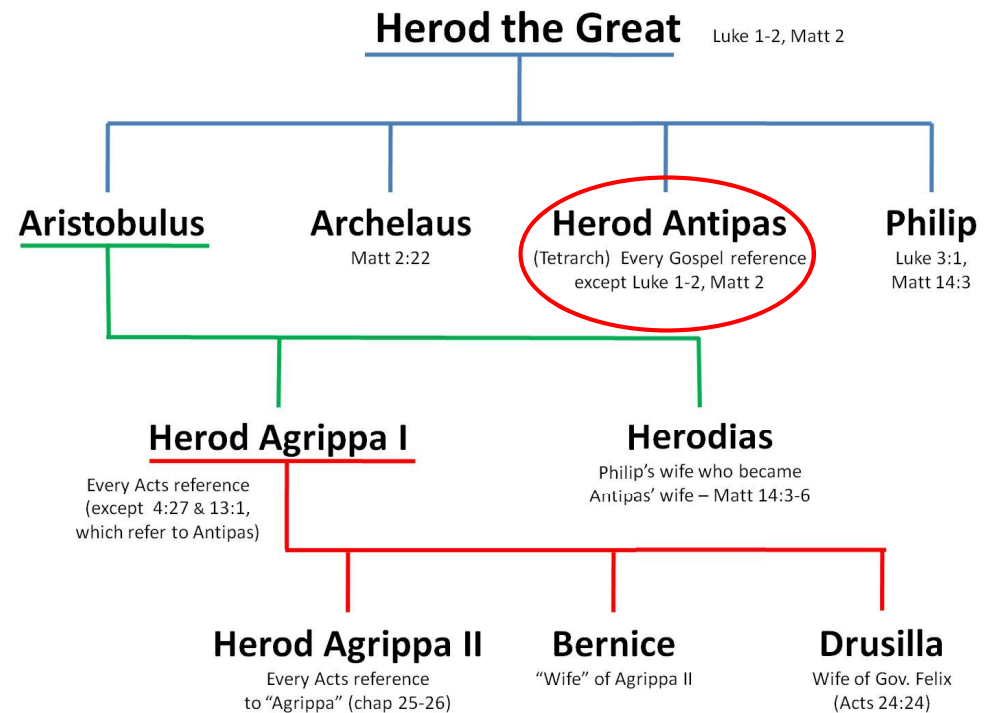
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- Herod doesn't scare Jesus. The providence of God will take care of Him.
- Jesus will continue His mission. He will stay on point.

"fox" – a fox is sly, cunning, and while this is true, I think the meaning goes beyond that here.

33 "Nevertheless I must journey on today and tomorrow and the next day; for it cannot be that a prophet would perish outside of Jerusalem."

- Jesus is not intimidated. Nothing will stop Him from carrying out His plan.
- 2nd half of the verse is a proverb that was well known in Jerusalem.
- Jerusalem had a reputation for killing prophets. They were proud of it. For a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem would be a rare exception.
- So Jesus is saying He is heading not only to the city of Jerusalem but to His death.



34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!"

- What sadness Jesus had over Jerusalem.
- This is the capital of Israel, the center for all worship and sacrifice.
- Yet it is known for killing God's messengers. How tragic!
- Jesus pictures a hen protecting her chicks. He desired to gather Israel under His protective wings.

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- Jesus pictures a hen protecting her chicks. He desired to gather Israel under His protective wings.
- Jesus warned Israel time and again not to stray from Him.
- So you have a fox, a killing, and a hen with chicks, all in this passage. Sound familiar?
- The fox (Herod) killed the hen (Jesus). But in doing so the hen provided life for the chicks.



The story is told of a henhouse that was struck by lightning and burned down. Later, as the farmer poked through the ashes, he found the charred remains of a hen. But underneath the hen's body were six chicks who had survived the fire. The mother hen had "gathered her chicks under her wings." She died so that they might live.

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- In the providence of God, Jesus gave His life for Israel and the world.
- Little did sly, cunning, Herod know that by killing Jesus He would play right into the plan and will of God.
- But Israel refused to believe. Therefore no protection under the wings.

35 "Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you, you will not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"

"desolate" - Israel and the city of Jerusalem suffered the consequences and in 70 AD the city was destroyed and the Jews scattered.

- However, someday all Israel, who are still alive at the end of the 7-year Tribulation, will be saved (Rom. 11:26) and will welcome her Messiah, Jesus Christ, at the 2nd coming.

Application

1. Leaving behind all that you have to obtain salvation, is not an option, it is a requirement.
2. Big surprises await on Judgment Day.
3. Don't refuse the protective hand of God.