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**BIBLE STUDY**

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**Luke 13:22-35**

***Luke 13:22 "And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem."***

This last few months of Jesus' ministry was all leading up to the climax of the Passover in Jerusalem where He would be the Passover Lamb. He taught right up till the time of the crucifixion.

***Luke 13:23 "Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,"***

This is a legitimate question for then and now. The answer both times is "yes", as we see Jesus expound upon it in the next few verses.

***Luke 13:24 "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able."***

Jesus answers the question of verse 23 by telling them how to be saved. “Strive” implies deliberate action to achieve and “Strait” means narrow. Jesus explains that a person needs to have determination to live the life that Jesus has set before us. Those who seek and cannot get in have too broad a view. They are full of compromise and will not walk the disciplined, self-sacrificing life that it takes to enter in. The door is Jesus. If we walk on the narrow path that leads to righteousness, we will find the door (Jesus) and enter in.

***Luke 13:25 "When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:"***

This is a sad scene which indicates that somehow, they found the door but by the time they had wandered everywhere but the narrow path, they had spent too much time of their life in the world. They have lost their chance to enter in. The doors of this symbolic city were closed at nightfall or at the end of a person's life. There is no salvation after death: only judgment. In Hebrews we read of someone who waited too long to repent,

***Hebrews 12:17 "For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears."***

***Luke 13:26 "Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets."***

***Luke 13:27 "But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity."***

We see in this that these people feel that because they are Hebrews (God's chosen people), that He will make exceptions for them. Race, color, creed, or station in life will have nothing to do with any of us making it to heaven. There is only one way to heaven and that is through Jesus. In John, Jesus told them, "I am the way". He also said, "No man cometh to the Father but by me". You see, being Abraham's physical descendants won't get you there. I know some people whose parents were mighty men and women of God. I am here to tell them that will not get them to heaven, either. The Lord does not have grandchildren, just children.

***Luke 13:28 "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you [yourselves] thrust out."***

Salvation is an individual thing. Each person has to activate their own will to follow Jesus. The offer is to whosoever will. These prophets (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) are all accepted because of their faith. The ones thrust out will be because they rejected Jesus and His teachings. The sorrow will be unexplainably horrible when they discover they have not made it.

***Luke 13:29 "And they shall come from the east, and [from] the west, and from the north, and [from] the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God."***

No one will be rejected because of nationality. There will be individuals from all nations who will be saved. Those who follow Jesus' plan of salvation will be saved. Jesus lets them know by this that salvation is not reserved to just the Israelites but is open to all who will receive it.

***Luke 13:30 "And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last."***

Those who the world classify as last sometimes receive the message of Jesus more freely and so might be the first to believe. His is a religion of the common people. Learned people of the law rejected Jesus. Israel had been first; but if they reject Jesus, they shall be last.

***Luke 13:31 "The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee."***

Herod and Herodias wanted to get rid of Jesus, because He was so popular with the common people. Herod was so superstitious about John the Baptist that he was afraid to do anything himself. These Pharisees, whether working for Herod or for themselves, would like for Jesus to be gone, as well. They warned Jesus of Herod, because Jesus knew Herod had John the Baptist beheaded.

***Luke 13:32 "And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third [day] I shall be perfected."***

Jesus calls Herod a fox. He sends him word not to bother Him because He is going on with His work 3 more days here. He sees right through these Pharisees and will not be stopped.

***Luke 13:33 "Nevertheless I must walk to day, and to morrow, and the [day] following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem."***

Jesus tells the Pharisees, "You nor Herod are not driving me away. I must go to Jerusalem because that is where a prophet must die."

***Luke 13:34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen [doth gather] her brood under [her] wings, and ye would not!"***

God's great love for Jerusalem had been long standing. God always wanted Jerusalem to come to Him and let His covering protect them. God had dwelt here in this city with His people. He had led His people out of Egypt, and He led them with His fire and smoke for forty years to the promised land. Solomon built a temple in Jerusalem where God dwelt with His people, but His people activated their free will and rejected God's only Son. Jesus is mourning for the beloved city Jerusalem when He says, "O Jerusalem". They rejected the prophets God sent and then rejected God's Son. I say with Jesus, O Jerusalem why did you not understand how much God loved you?

***Luke 13:35 "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until [the time] come when ye shall say, Blessed [is] he that cometh in the name of the Lord."***

Jesus now speaks to them that this is their house. They have taken it away from God with their evil will. They will not receive the Lord at this time. They are blinded with the very law that God had given them to set them free. Jesus is speaking prophetically here that there will come a day in the far future when they will see Him coming in the clouds and then they will mourn for what they had done. Then everyone will bow to Him and confess that He really was Messiah.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What did Jesus go through the cities and villages doing?
2. What was the last few months of Jesus' ministry leading up to?
3. In verse 23, one asked Jesus what question?
4. What is the answer to this question then and now?
5. How is the gate we enter in described?
6. What is wrong with those who want to enter in and cannot?
7. Who is the door?
8. When is it too late to try to get in?
9. Why do the people in verses 26 and 27 believe they should be saved?
10. No man cometh to the Father but by whom?
11. The Lord has no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, only children.
12. What happens when they see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of God and are thrust out themselves?
13. What does verse 29 mean?
14. Is God a respecter of persons?
15. The learned people of the law rejected \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
16. Who came to Jesus and told Him to get out?
17. What reason did they give Jesus why He should leave?
18. What did Jesus call Herod?
19. What did Jesus tell them to tell Herod?
20. What is the city where prophets perish?
21. How had God led His people 40 years in the wilderness?
22. What is Jesus doing when He says, O Jerusalem?
23. In verse 35, their house is left \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
24. What is Jesus speaking prophetically of in verse 35?