

# Faith in the Home

Sermon Notes for the Kiddos (and everybody else)

Pentecost 11: Luke 13:22-30, "Exclusive Yet Inclusive"

In today's sermon we focus on a passage from Luke where Jesus is asked if only a "few" people will be saved. Jesus doesn't allude to a specific number of people, and He doesn't say whether it will be only a few people or many people who will be saved. The number is not for us to know. What Jesus does tell us though is to enter through the "narrow door." What Jesus means is that there is only one way to Eternal Life.

One way, period. Salvation from an everlasting death in Hell only comes from Jesus Christ. He is the only way, He is the "narrow door" into an eternal paradise. Yet, our prevailing culture tells us that there are "multiple ways to God, and it is "intolerant" to believe otherwise. Furthermore, when it comes to belief in the afterlife, most people will tell you that they are not going to Hell. I've met a growing number of self-described Christians who believe God is "too loving to condemn anyone to Hell." But Jesus tells us in that passage that many who think they are saved will be on the "outside." Why? Because they did not receive Him. Salvation is exclusively from Jesus. He is God. He is the Son of God. The world is broken and condemned because it rejects Him. So, it is only logical to believe that salvation would come from receiving Him. Believing that salvation comes only from Jesus does not mean that you hate everyone who is not a Christian. But it does save you.

This exclusive way to salvation should not offend us, or cause us despair. We all probably know and love people who are not Christian. Denying that Jesus is the exclusive way to paradise for their sake does not help them, and that's a dangerous thing for our own souls. The hope for us all and for our unbelieving neighbors is how inclusive the Gospel of Jesus Christ is. This is why Jesus said, "And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

Everyone can hear the Gospel of Jesus, believe, and be saved. So if you don't like that someone you love doesn't believe, don't reject the truth of Jesus, but share it! God sent His Son to save everyone. That is His good will. As Peter said in Acts 2, "All who call on the name of the Lord will be saved." Salvation is exclusive, but it's inclusive for all who believe in Jesus.

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