



Today's Message

Date: May 30, 2021
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Ask the Right Question*

Text: Luke 13:22–30 (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?” 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 When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ ²⁶ Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ ²⁷ But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ 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. ³⁰ And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

Introduction: Since 9:51, Jesus has continued his course toward Jerusalem to keep his planned rendezvous with a cross (v. 22). The journey has been marked by increasingly direct confrontations about the need to respond to Jesus’ kingdom message. One day, a member of the crowd following Jesus asked him how many would enter the kingdom, that is, “be saved.” Jesus responded with an extended answer that would have shocked all who heard.

- I. **A question arose from the crowd: How many will be saved? 22-23**

- II. **Jesus gave a non-answer: “*Strive to enter . . .*” 24-27**
 - A. because the door is narrow. 24a
 - B. because many try but fail. 24b
 - C. because the time is short. 25
 - D. because superficiality cannot save. 26
 - E. because failure is eternal. 27

- III. **Jesus revealed the outcome: He will populate the kingdom by sovereign grace. 28-30**
 - A. Many expected in the kingdom will be excluded . . . 28
 - B. and many unexpected in the kingdom will be included . . . 29
 - C. because God’s ways are not our ways. 30

Today’s take-home truth: The question you need to ask is not, “how many will be saved,” but “will *I* be saved?”