

"THE NARROW DOOR"

Luke 13:18-30 - Pastor Bruce French

What is the Kingdom becoming?

1. The Kingdom is becoming a _____. Luke 13:18-19
2. The Kingdom is becoming _____. Luke 13:20-21

Who will dwell in the Kingdom?

1. Those who enter through the _____ will dwell in the Kingdom. Luke 13:22-26

Action...

- Put forth an _____.

2. Those who come from _____ will dwell in the Kingdom. Luke 13:28-30

Action...

- Learn the _____.

Take Home Truth

Entrance into the _____ comes through a relationship with the _____. Luke 13:27

Today's Core Belief:

Salvation by Grace: I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ. *(from Ephesians 2:8-9)*

Today's Action:

Spend at least 5 minutes each day this week praying for someone who doesn't know the Lord.



Deeper Connection Study

These parables in Luke 13 highlight Jesus' emphasis on the uniqueness of the kingdom. For each parable, he opens with the phrase, "The kingdom of God is like..." He provides a glimpse into the reality of the kingdom as well as how it operates. Yet he is very clear that the door will one day be shut: There are people who will choose to be inside the kingdom and those who will remain outside.

Today's Core Belief discussed: Salvation by Grace.

Read Luke 13:18-30 [vv. 18-21 - par. Matt. 13:31-33; Mk. 4:30-32]

1. What two metaphors did Jesus use to describe the kingdom of heaven? Why do you think he chose these particular ones?
2. What would result from the growth of the first item (v. 19)? How would this imagery have been understood by Jesus' audience (cf. Ezek. 17:22-24; 31:2-18; Dan. 4:9-27)?
3. How did the second item grow (v. 21)? How would this imagery challenge the understanding of Jesus' hearers?
4. What is the point of Jesus' parable (vv. 22-30)? Who is on the inside and who is on the outside? How can someone be so close to the promise of God and yet miss it?
5. How do you see the kingdom of heaven growing and expanding today? How does this compare with its beginning?
6. How are you involved in the expansion of God's kingdom? What part do you play to make Christ's name known?

PRAYER TO THE POINT: Praise God that he has revealed his kingdom plan through Jesus Christ. Ask God to use you to make his gospel known to others. Pray for God's will to be done in your life.

NARROW DOOR

"I Don't Care for Religion"

March 4, 2018 - Luke 13:18-30

At one time or another, everyone has felt that something was not fair. It might have been a teacher whose grading system was somewhat bias that created that sense of injustice. It may have been getting a ticket when others who did not get pulled over were going faster. There is an endless list of circumstances from our point of view that were wrong and should have been handled differently.

Whether we realize it or not, our sense of fairness points back to God. If God is God then he is the one calling the shots, and if something seems unjust then he is ultimately responsible. That is certainly true when it comes to the subject of salvation. Many people have endeavored to devise their own scheme for eternal life, and the paths they have created are as diverse as the people who have crafted them. The ideas range from living in a monastery in the mountains of Tibet to flying a jet into the World Trade Center. Though they are very different, they all have one thing in common: the means to salvation is based upon the efforts of the individual. Jesus' response to this was that few people will get into heaven because the door is narrow and few will enter through it. For most people, this seems completely unfair. How about you – does that seem fair to you?

