



4-26-20

**The Open Door**  
**Luke 13:22-35**

Luke 13:22 (NIV) 22 *Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem.*

Luke 9:51 (NIV) 51 *As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.*

Luke 13:23 (NIV) *Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them,*

Luke 13:24 (NIV) *"Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.*

John 14:6 (NIV) 6 *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

Christianity is an **exclusive** religion.

There is no salvation apart from Jesus Christ.

There is no forgiveness of sin apart from Jesus Christ.

There is no eternal life apart from Jesus Christ.

But Christianity is also the most **inclusive** faith of any of them!

Luke 13:25-27 (NIV) 25 *Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' "But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'*

26 *"Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'*

27 *"But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'*

My concern is that many of us **know about God**, but we don't really **know Him** through his son Jesus Christ.

Matthew 7:21 (NIV) 21 *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

Matthew 7:22-23 (NIV) 22 *Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'*

1 Timothy 4:1-3 (NIV) 1 *The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. 3 They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth.*

1 Timothy 4:16 (NIV) 16 *Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

Luke 13:28-30 (NIV) 28 *"There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.*

29 *People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.*

30 *Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last."*

Luke 13:31 (NIV) 31 *At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you."*

Luke 13:32-33 (NIV) 32 *He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.'*

33 *In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day--for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!*

Luke 13:34-35 (NIV) 34 *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!*

35 *Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"*

**Discussion Questions: (For your Life Group or Personal Study)**

1. **Opening:** Take a minute to describe one of your favorite places in the world that no one, or few, in your group has ever been. Have fun with this. What did it smell like, look like, feel like?
2. **Dive Deeper:** One quick question from last week's message. Read Luke 13:18-21. Note the progression: A small mustard seed or a little yeast...grows to a large bush/tree or a loaf of bread...both items can then be used to bless others (birds perch in its branches and you've got a dandy loaf of bread). Think about your life, have you been on this same progression? Compare your spiritual life today to one year ago - has there been growth in knowledge of Jesus Christ and action? What are things that seem to really push you forward in growing in your faith?

3. **Dive Deeper:** Read Luke 13:22-30 and discuss what it means to be saved. Can a person be saved without understanding his sin? Why or why not?
4. **Dive Deeper:** Read Luke 13:27. Compare this verse with 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9. How do they relate to one another? Is hell a real place? How do these 2 passages describe it?
5. **Dive Deeper:** Read Luke 13:30 and Matthew 19:30. Who are the "first that will be last" that Jesus is speaking about? What does Jesus mean by this?
6. **Closing thought:** What is one thing you are going to do differently having studied this passage?