

### **When close is good enough...or not**

Sometimes “close” is good enough, and sometimes it isn't

When is “close” good enough?

- “I almost got a perfect score on the test”

When is “close” not good enough?

- “I almost got to the airport in time for my flight”

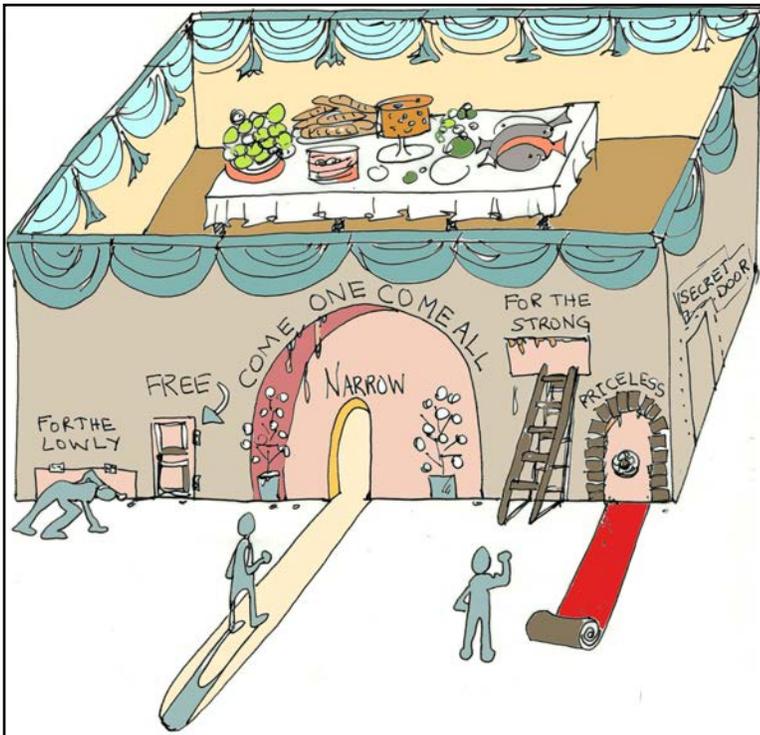
**How close is close enough for being right with God?**

1

### **My Goals for today**

1. We'll know what Jesus taught
2. We'll respond to Jesus' teaching the way He intended

2



## King Over All

*Luke 13:22-35*

[bib.ly/Lu13.NIV](https://bib.ly/Lu13.NIV)  
[tiny.cc/cmchandouts](https://tiny.cc/cmchandouts)

3

### *Luke 13:22-23*

Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem.

Someone asked him,

“Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?”

saved = welcomed in God's Kingdom rather than judged in hell

4

*Luke 13:22-35*

**22-23:** Jesus' ministry continues. How many are saved?

- Destination was Jerusalem: place of sacrifice...of Jesus!
- Purpose of travels: teaching many people in many places
- Question: Are only a few people being saved?
  - Saved = welcomed in God's Kingdom instead of being judged and rejected
  - Seemingly a debate in Judaism because of reformers
  - Perhaps also prompted by Jesus' teaching

24:

25-27:

28-30:

31-33:

34-35:

- "Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him." (12:5)
- A servant who is not prepared for the master's return will be "cut to pieces and assigned a place with the unbelievers." (12:46)
- "Unless you repent, you too will all perish!" (13:3, 5)
- Of the fruitless fig tree (like Israel): "Cut it down!" (13:7, 9)

5

*Luke 13:24*

He said to them, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to."

6

***Luke 13:22-35***

22-23: Jesus' ministry continues. How many are saved?

**24:** Warning 1: Make every effort to enter the narrow door

- Jesus' emphasis
  - Not: how many will make it
  - Rather: you and I must take great care not to miss it!
    - Because (sadly) many will miss the door of salvation
  - Instead of debating, Jesus makes it a warning
- The door is narrow
  - Jesus said: "I am the way and the truth and the life.

25-27: **No one** comes to the Father **except through me.** *John 14:6*

28-30: • So "make every effort" not to miss the narrow door

28-30: • What isn't enough (based on Jesus' warning)

31-33: • To want to get in

• To try pretty hard to find the narrow door

34-35: • To have good intentions yet miss the narrow door

7

***Luke 13:25-27***

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.'

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

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

8

***Luke 13:22-35***

22-23: Jesus' ministry continues. How many are saved?

24: Warning 1: Make every effort to enter the narrow door

**25-27: Warning 2: Enter now, before Jesus closes the door!**

- Jesus will eventually close the door
- Claiming to be close to Jesus or God does not matter at all!
  - What I think about someone else's salvation doesn't matter!
- The real question: **Does Jesus "know" me?**
  - When a tree falls on your house...
- Failing to enter when entry was offered

28-30: is an offense against God ("evildoers")

31-33: • Parable of invitation to a wedding feast (Luke 14)

- People were judged for turning down or ignoring the invitation

34-35: • "I just bought a field...oxen...just got married"

9

***Luke 13:28-30***

"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.

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

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

**gnashing of teeth = expression of extreme anguish, horror**

10

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22-23: Jesus' ministry continues. How many are saved?

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**28-30: Warning 3: We misjudge who makes it and who doesn't**

- Gnashing teeth: Anguish, grief, and anger → a tragedy!
- Many Jewish people will not get in
  - Coming from a believing family...
- While many Gentile people will get in → Seated at the feast!
- Our judgments are so often backward!
  - We'll be surprised by who gets in: those judged by society

31-33: • We'll be surprised by who's "thrown out": the honored

34-35: • **Warning of "exclusion from future blessings for those who thought they were first in line to get them."**

11

*Luke 13:31-33*

**At that time** some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him,  
 "Leave this place and go somewhere else.  
Herod wants to kill you."

He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

**Herod = Roman ruler over northern Jewish areas (not Jerusalem)**

12

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**31-33: Jesus' ministry is unaffected by opposition**

- Debate today: Were Pharisees helping or opposing Jesus?
- Either way, Jesus is unaffected by threats of death by Herod
  - He already knows He is heading to His death
  - He continues unrushed in following God's plan
    - Days: time periods, so time is limited
    - Third day is a symbol of the time of rescue (Hosea 6:2)
- Jerusalem: assumed to be closest to heaven

34-35: • In reality: place where God's prophets and apostles are killed!

13

***Luke 13:34-35***

“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, and you were **not willing**. 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.’**”

**desolate = like a desert; abandoned and lifeless**

14

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31-33: Jesus' ministry is unaffected by opposition

**34-35: Jesus grieves over the loss by those who miss Him**

- "Judgment is certain for rejecting Jesus, yet God carries it out with grief."
- Surprising expression:
  - Jesus "wills" to rescue people but people "will" not to be
- All other paths leave us deserted, abandoned, lifeless
- Only one thing matters:
  - Do we genuinely submit to Jesus as God?

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**The Big Idea**

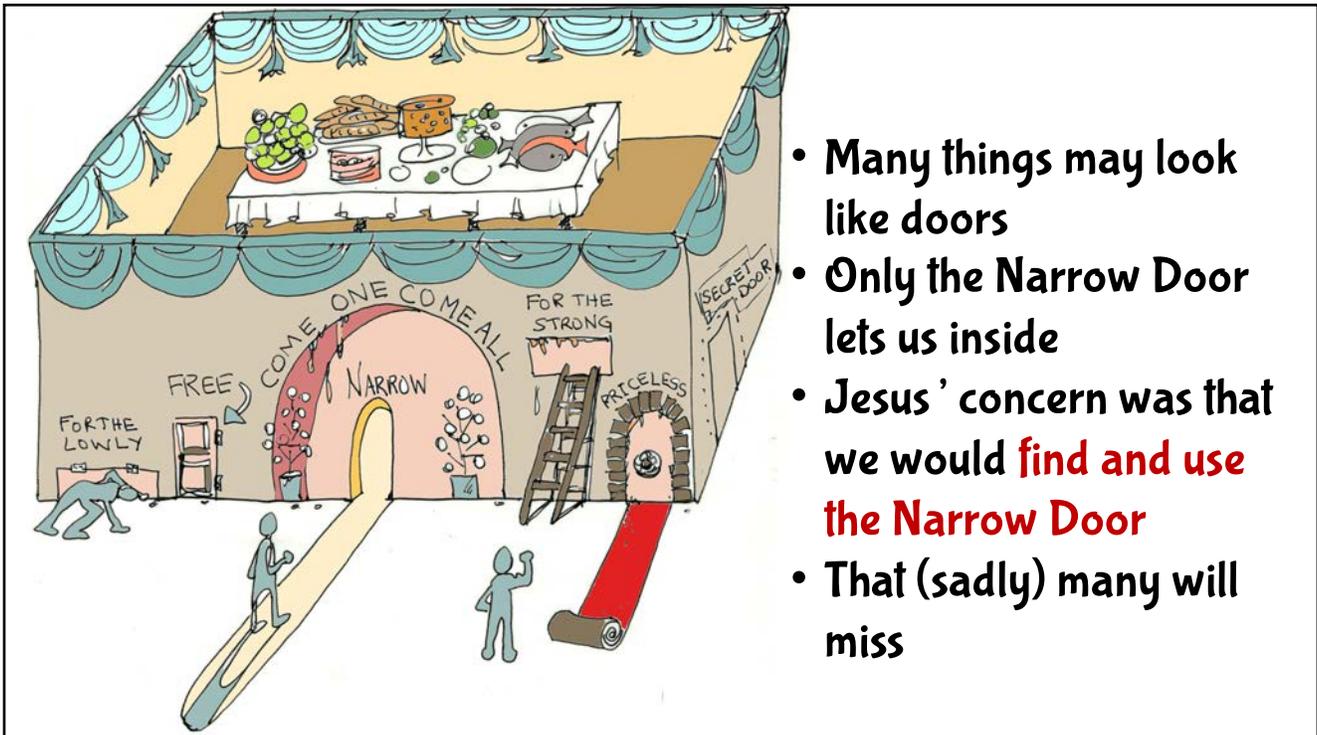
**Jesus alone is God forever  
no matter who or what opposes Him  
so what we do about Him matters more than anything else**

**And this is the narrow door:**

**“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”**

- **Bless this one (Jesus) who comes as God**
- **Genuinely submit to Jesus as God**

22



- Many things may look like doors
- Only the Narrow Door lets us inside
- Jesus' concern was that we would **find and use the Narrow Door**
- That (sadly) many will miss

23

### Claiming to be other doors, but are really painted brick...

- Following science
- Following tradition
- Being spiritual
- Being sincere
- Being good
- Being healthy
- Being true to yourself
- Claiming that a 'dead end' is to be accepted
- Ignoring the inevitability of death
- Claiming that (most) every way leads to God

**Jesus said: Make every effort to find and use the real door!**

24

## The Big Idea

**Jesus alone is God forever  
no matter who or what opposes Him  
so what we do about Him matters more than anything else**

**Entering through the narrow door means...**

- **Genuinely submitting to Jesus as God**

25

## The narrow door...

**Jesus said: "There is one narrow door: Jesus Christ"**

- **"I am the way** and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father **except through me.**" *John 14:6*
- "Salvation is found in **no one else**, for **there is no other name** under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." *Acts 4:12*
- "For there is one God and **one mediator** between God and mankind, **the man Christ Jesus**" *1 Timothy 2:5*
- "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world **through him**. Whoever **believes in him** is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not **believed in the name of God's one and only Son.**" *John 3:17-18*

26

### Application

#### **Jesus said: Make every effort to enter through this narrow door**

- Why does Jesus tell us to “make every effort”?
  - It is very easy to get this wrong
    - **Especially for church people!**
      - Thinking it is by being good or religious or right or close or...
  - **Salvation is being adopted by God through Jesus Christ**
    - “The Spirit you received brought about your **adoption to sonship**. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’” *Romans 8:15*
    - **It is an action of God for us**
  - NOT by being good enough, worthy enough, right enough...
- How?
  - Receive Jesus as Savior & God: “Blessed be Jesus, the Son of God, whose death and life make me a child of God by faith”

27

### Application

#### **Jesus said: Make every effort to enter through this narrow door**

- Don't get this wrong!
- Never outgrow this trust in Jesus as Savior and God
- **Say: “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”**
  - **Bless Jesus who came as God**
  - **Eagerly submit to Jesus as God**
  - **For salvation and for life**
  - **Genuinely turn to Jesus**  
**with the whole of our being**  
**with sincere faith**  
**to adopted by God entirely as a gift**

28

### Application

**Jesus said: Make every effort to enter through the narrow door**

**Help people find the narrow door**

- Jesus spent His time teaching about the narrow door
  - With compassion and clarity
- A daily and weekly prayer
  - **Give me the privilege today and this week to help someone come one step closer to entering through the narrow door**
  - As the Holy Spirit works in people's hearts...
    - Tell our stories: "Once I was blind and now I can see"
    - Show God's goodness: live like Jesus for God's glory
    - Persuasively: "Give the reason for your hope"
    - Contagiously: Help people 'taste and see' that God is among us

29

### Application

**Jesus said: Make every effort to enter through the narrow door**

**Help people find the narrow door**

**Boldly follow, undeterred by anything that opposes Jesus**

- All the forces of evil, nature and humanity could not stop Jesus from fulfilling His purpose
- All the forces of evil, nature and humanity cannot stop the work of God in the lives of those who trust Him
- **Trust Jesus, and follow Jesus**, even when there are threats, or discouragement, or troubles big and small
  - **"Go tell that fox I will keep following Jesus until I reach my home with Him."**

30

## The Big Idea

**Jesus alone is God forever  
no matter who or what opposes Him  
so what we do about Him matters more than anything else**

**Entering through the narrow door means...**

- **Genuinely turning to Jesus as God and Savior**

**Let there be no room for regret or an unwelcome surprise  
when you or people around you meet God...**

**Be a part of helping people enter the love of God forever!**