

Lord, Are There Few That Be Saved?

(Luke 13:22-30)

Introduction:

1. In our lesson we are concentrating on the question found in Luke 13:23: "*Lord, are there few that be saved?*"
2. Thankfully, the Lord answers this question in His Word.
 - a. We must listen to the Lord's answer because He is our Savior -- He is "*the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him*" (Hebrews 5:9).
 - b. We must also listen to the Lord because He will be our judge -- the Father has "*committed all judgment unto the Son*" (John 5:22).
3. As we search the Scriptures for the Lord's answer, let us first examine . . .

Discussion:

- I. THE SETTING IN WHICH THIS QUESTION WAS ASKED (vs.22-23)
 - A. We learn from vs.22 that Jesus was traveling "*toward Jerusalem.*"
 1. Jesus knew what would happen to Him in Jerusalem (Luke 18:31-33).
 2. Even though He knew what would happen, Jesus took advantage of opportunities to teach as He went through various cities and villages.
 - B. According to vs.23, someone asked Jesus a question.
 1. We do not know who asked the question, and we do not know where or why it was asked.
 2. However, someone, somewhere, and for some reason asked Jesus, "*Lord, are there few that be saved?*"
- II. ON THIS OCCASION, JESUS DID NOT ANSWER THIS QUESTION DIRECTLY
 - A. Jesus did, however, answer it directly on another occasion (Matthew 7:13-14).
 1. Jesus said very clearly that "*few*" will find eternal life.
 - a. To find eternal life, a person must enter in at "the strait gate" and travel down "the narrow way."
 - b. Unfortunately, only a few will be willing to do this.
 2. Jesus also said that "*many*" will go to eternal destruction.
 - a. To go to eternal destruction, a person can go through "the wide gate" and travel down "the broad way."
 - b. Unfortunately, many will choose to do this.
 - B. To illustrate how many "the few" are:
 1. in Noah's day, only 8 souls were saved from the flood (1 Peter 3:20-21)
 2. only Joshua and Caleb were allowed to enter Canaan (Numbers 14:30).

- C. To answer the question asked in Luke 13:23, relatively speaking, only a few will be saved (Matthew 7:13-14).
 - 1. We need to be grateful that anyone can be among the few if he so desires and is willing to comply with the Lord's will.
 - 2. In Luke 13, rather than answer the question directly, . . .
- III. JESUS TOLD THOSE PRESENT WHAT TO DO TO BE SAVED
- A. Jesus said, "*Strive [agonize, struggle] to enter in at the strait gate*" (vs.24).
 - B. Illustrations:
 - 1. To be successful, an athlete must "strive" (1 Corinthians 9:24-25).
 - 2. Jesus provided a great example of striving or agonizing (Luke 22:39-44).
 - C. To be among the few who will find eternal life, we must strive and agonize to enter in at the strait gate and travel the narrow way.
 - 1. Perhaps this will help us to more fully appreciate the instructions found in Luke 12:31[Matthew 6:33]; Luke 9:23; 14:27; and Philippians 2:12.
 - 2. Jesus went on to say that . . .
- IV. MANY WILL SEEK TO ENTER, BUT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE
- A. They will not be able to enter because they were not willing to "strive."
 - B. These people will not like their reward at the judgment (Luke 13:25-28a).
 - C. The few will hear the special words found in Matthew 25:21.

Conclusion:

- 1. The few and the many are also contrasted in Matthew 7:21-23.
- 2. If you are among the many, take advantage of this opportunity to become one of the few (2 Corinthians 6:2).