

# *The Gospel of Luke*

## *Lesson 28: Luke 13:1-35*

Heaven's gate stands open to all but it cannot be entered by ease and effortlessness, with sin and self and worldliness in tow. For Christ has said, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able" (Luke 13:24, NKJV). "Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:14).

J.C. Ryle has said, "We may well tremble and be afraid if our religion is that of the multitude. If we can say not more than this, that 'we go where others go, and worship where others worship, and hope we shall do as well as others at last', we are literally pronouncing our own condemnation".<sup>i</sup>

The one who desires to spend eternity in God's presence must be willing to lose his life for Christ's. He must *agonize* over his condition and *strive* with his heart and ways. With the discipline of an athlete, he must deny himself and resist conformity to the world. "Difficult is the way..."; greater is the reward.

*Read Luke 13:1-5.*

1. Why do many believe that suffering is indicative of one's status before God?
2. How are the two disasters similar? How are they different?
3. Jesus turned His focus from the question "Why did this happen?" and turned it to the question, "What does this mean to me?" (David Guzik). Why is the way a man dies inconsequential to the way he lived his life? Why is repentance of utmost importance?<sup>ii</sup>

*Continue reading in Luke 13, verses 6-9.*



10. How does legalism cause one to miss God's heart?

11. Why did Jesus' words put the rule-keepers to shame? (v. 17)

*Read Luke 13:18-21.*

12. Describe the beginnings of the kingdom of God.

13. How is the kingdom to manifest itself in one's life? Consider its growth process and its results.

*Read Luke 13:22-30.*

14. What is meant by the following statement: "Many... will seek to enter and will not be able" (v.24, NKJV)?

15. Define what it means to *strive* (*agonizomai*). Read John 18:36, 1 Corinthians 9:25 Colossians 1:29, 4:12, 1 Timothy 6:12, and 2 Timothy 4:7.



21. In verse 27 Christ states, “I do not know you, where you are from” and then identifies them as “workers of iniquity”. What does this reveal about their relationship with Christ and its affect upon their manner of living?

22. Why would Christ’s statement in verses 28-30 astonish the Jews?

Spurgeon said that “there are last that shall be first” was a wonder [miracle] of grace, and that “there first that shall be last” was a wonder of sin.

*Finally, read verses 31-35 of Luke 13.*

23. What do these verses reveal about Christ’s love for all people in spite of their treatment of Him?

24. Ultimately, what were the people unwilling to allow Christ to do? How will their perspective change? (v.35) Read Philippians 2:5-11.

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<sup>i</sup> Ryle, J.C. (1993). *Matthew: Expository Thoughts on the Gospels* (51). Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books.

<sup>ii</sup> “Luke 13:5 (**unless you repent**) described a *once and for all* repentance. The verb tense in Luke 13:3 (**unless you repent**) described a *continuing* repentance” (David Guzik).

<sup>iii</sup> *His Delight: The Pathway of Pleasing God, Lesson One: Agony, Entering the Narrow Gate.* www.coffeetalk.org