

# How Many Are Saved?

Luke 13:23-30

# Double talk?

Sometimes implies few are saved:  
Lk.13:1-5, 6-9. [Gn.6; 19]

Other times, many: Lk.13:18-22.

The question: 23

Jesus, the perfect communicator

Audience: imperfect listeners

# Double talk?

Few / Many are relative

“Give me a few dollars?” How much?

“Large crowd.” How many?

# Setting (22)

On way to Jerusalem (9:51)

Three times plainly warns disciples about His appointment with death

**Perfect communication cannot dispel prejudice, preconceived ideas, or materialistic expectations**

# I. The Clarifying Question, 23

# Question: respectful but wrong

- ◆ 'Lord' – right source, right time, easy to say (6:46)
- ◆ 'Are few saved?'
  - ◆ Nobody wants to die; fewer to obey

**Calvinism: few saved; unconditional**

Universalism: all saved; unconditional

**Secularism: almost all saved; uncond.**

Some rabbis: Israel as whole saved

**Frivolous: 'How many will be saved?'**

I. The Clarifying Question, 23

**II. The Conclusive Answer, 24-30**

# You strive (24)

- You: personal, individual duty
  - Jn.21:15-19...20-22 (Ac.5)
- Strive: 'agonize'

'Strain every nerve to enter' - BDAG

'You must struggle on to get in' - Wms

• Jn.18:36

• 1 Co.9:25



# You strive (24)

- You: personal, individual duty
  - Jn.21:15-19...20-22 (Ac.5)
- Strive: 'agonize'
- To enter: not automatic or unconditional
- Through narrow gate:
  - 'Stenosis'

'Not that it is narrow in itself,  
but that we want to take in our  
pride, self-will, darling sins'

# **You** strive (24)

- You: personal, individual duty
  - Jn.21:15-19...20-22 (Ac.5)
- Strive: 'agonize'
- To enter: not automatic or unconditional
- Through narrow gate
- Many will seek to enter in and will not be able:
  - Jesus bypasses numbers: not how many, but who?

# Act now (25)

- ◆ Frivolous questions... (1 Pt.1:4)
  - ◆ Time sensitive
  - ◆ Where were these people when door was open? [Lk.14:16-20]
- ◆ 'I do not know you': Mt.7:21-23; 25:11-12 (Lk.13:25, 27)

# **Plead, pray, eat, or obey? (26)**

- ◆ 'We ate in Your presence':
  - ◆ Sinners enjoy His benefits (Mt.5:45) but are not saved on borrowed goodness
- ◆ 'We heard You teach':
  - ◆ Hearers only

# Verse 25 + (27)

- ◆ Depart from Me: permanent consequences
- ◆ Workers of lawlessness: they did work, but . . .

# **Weeping, gnashing (28-29)**

- ◆ Surprises on Judgment Day
  - ◆ Abraham, Gentiles in kingdom . . .

# **Last, first; first, last (30)**

- ◆ The great cosmic reversal
- ◆ Lk.16

I. The Clarifying Question, 23

II. The Conclusive Answer, 24-30

**III. The Critical Response**



Saved from what (23)?

From sins that bring God's wrath

What is salvation (23)?

Rescue, remission, forgiveness...

What must I do  
to be saved (24)?

Acts 16 . . . Acts 2 . . . Acts 22

Acts 16	Believe	X	Baptism
Acts 2	X	Repent	Baptism
Acts 22	X	X	Baptism

Saved from what?

From sins that bring God's wrath

What is salvation?

Rescue, remission, forgiveness, bliss...

What must I do to be saved?

Acts 16 . . . Acts 2 . . . Acts 22

Mass Confusion on salvation

## Acts 2, sad sinners saw –

- Religious piety not enough, 2:5
- Zealous passion not enough, 2:5-11
- Sincerity alone not enough, 2:37
- Ignorance not enough, 2:37 (3:17)
- Faith and repentance not enough, 2:37-38
- God's plan is not man's, 2:38, 42

We get no vote, give no advice,  
get no credit for 'doing it our way'