



friendship
community church

The Narrow Door

Luke 13:18-30

Week of January 19-25, 2020

This week's focus - A commissioning of each of us to pass through the narrow door.

"He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches." And again he said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened." He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.""
Luke 13:18-30 ESV

Ask this question - Will everyone be in the kingdom of God? (It is the same question that Jesus was asked and addressed in this passage.)

In keeping with the passage Luke 18:1-13, Jesus puts the emphasis back on the individual.

Ask, What are some places that you have gotten stuck in your life? (figuratively or literally) Figuratively would include something like "stuck on a figuring out a puzzle or a math problem" and literally might include wading through some muddy, swampish land and not being able to move forward.

We all have an aversion to getting stuck. Many avoid attempting things because we are not certain we will be good at it. "The fear of not getting through it."

What is the kingdom of god like?

Jesus answers and illustrates this question with two very common things:

- Mustard seed
- Leaven

These are both illustrations of the beginning and the ending.

Up to this point the focus was on the law and the habits of religion. Jesus began to help them focus on the "why" rather than the what and how. Jesus was very good at getting to the heart of the matter rather than just falling for surface issues or distractions.

Narrow Door Takeaways

1. Strive to enter - make every "effort" to enter through the narrow door - Jesus flips it from the natural or the normal.

2. Listening to Jesus is not equal to knowing Jesus. Doing the religious stuff does not make you a knower. What do you think a difference is in “knowing” and “knowing about” something or someone?
3. Weeping and gnashing equals that hell is real.
4. East/West/North/South means everyone is welcome. Both Jews and Gentiles are welcome. But all must pass through the narrow door.

Narrow Door Weight Loss Plan

1. Strive daily. Obedience does not include taking days off. Ask, When are those times/patterns in your life when you are most prone to “taking a day off” from being obedient?
2. Read, pray, discuss, and practice the teachings of Jesus. That which helps and that which prevents. The life of faith is selfless and public. It cannot remain just personal and private. Are there times that you would rather not make your faith more public? How might you push yourself to be more public in your faithfulness?
3. Live and love others knowing that hell is real. Ask, What might that look like in your everyday life? In your family? At work?
4. Practice humble living and hospitality. – This is the first, last, last, first principle. God uses the humble. What do you think about this statement? - He humiliates the proud and exalts the humble.

What have you strapped to your back that is keeping you from striving through the narrow door?

What are you hanging on to that won't allow you to pass through the narrow door?

What is keeping you from trusting the One Who is always trustworthy?

When you and I focus on Jesus it helps us to see ourselves as smaller.

Read John 3:30 - He must increase and I must decrease. What might that look like in your life today on a daily basis?

Take time to share prayer requests and to pray together.