

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ The Mystery of the Kingdom of God

Last time...Jesus taught in a synagogue for the last time and again healed someone on the Sabbath, creating another hostile stir among His enemies

This time...Jesus the itinerant preacher is on the move and teaches more about the mystery of the kingdom of God

We will be in Luke 13 again

v22 went through...teaching...toward Jerusalem:

 The ministry in Perea and the Judean wilderness continues in the 3rd year of His ministry

 Jesus went through the cities and villages

- No place too small, no gathering too small or less important
 Lev 26:12 And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people
- Teaching
 - “milk” or “meat”?
 - randomly and winging it, or teaching systematically following a Plan?
- Evangelizing
 - to seek and save the lost (His Father’s business)
 - Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand (Luke 12-13)

 Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem...for the Feast of Dedication (John 10:22 *ff*)

v23a Lord, are there few that be saved:

 Given the conjugation of the verb, “Lord, are there few being saved?”

 Saved from...the judgment of God

 This is not a question out of the blue, but as the result of His teaching Jesus will answer

- from a different perspective than the one who asked
- with a parable

v23b-24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate...not be able:
Why answer from a different perspective?
Man needs his perspective corrected

man's: few are saved

- horizontal in thinking...looking around at other people
- self-righteousness...I am better, more holy, than you

God's: many are not saved

- vertical in thinking...looking upon all His beloved creatures
- humble...so loved the world that...

Deut 30:19 I have set before you life and death, blessing and
curing, therefore choose life

1 Tim 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come
unto the knowledge of the truth

Strive...*agonizomai* (from which we get "agonize")

- "struggle, to compete for a prize" the kingdom of God
- "contend, with an adversary" flesh, world, devil
- "fight, labor" against so much resistance

Matt 16:24-25 **If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.**

Phil 2:12-13 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

Phil 3:13-14 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus

2 Peter 1:10 give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall

1 Cor 15:10 by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me (2 Cor 12:9-10)

1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast,
unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,
forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the
Lord

Heb 4:11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest (to the people
of God), lest any man fall after the same example (Israel) of
unbelief

Jesus Christ used these words: continue, abide

to enter in at the strait gate...the narrow entrance to the kingdom of God
narrow due to the many obstacles set up by the destroyer of men's souls
narrow due to only One Way into the kingdom of God

Lev 16...atonement by the blood of an innocent substitute

Is 53:10-11

John 14:6

The just shall live by faith (receiving God's gift of salvation)

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of
yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any
man should boast (Jesus' work, not ours)

Rom 3:22 the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ
unto all and upon all them that believe (it is the faith of
Christ that saves and is God's gift to those that believe)

many...vs "few", a matter of perspective

I say unto you...thus saith the LORD of Lev 26:12

will seek to enter in...not God's way but their way, one that seems right in their eyes

- religion/good works
- traditions and philosophies of men
- another Jesus or another gospel

shall not be able...will not have the strength, will not be whole

- not worthy

Matt 10:37-39 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy
of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is
not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and
followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his
life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall
find it

- not clean

Prov 16:2 All the ways of a man *are* clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits

Lev 10:10 ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean

Ezk 44:23 they shall teach my people *the difference* between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean

Then Jesus answers the question with a parable

v25-27 When once the master of the house...the Lord of the Kingdom of God, Jesus Christ

is risen up...in that house, in heaven

and shut the door...finality to any entry into His house

on an individual life who does not believe when that person dies

Heb 9:27

vs

2 Cor 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens

2 Cor 5:6-8 Therefore *we are* always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord

on the Church preaching the Gospel

1 Cor 16:9 a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and *there are* many adversaries

2 Cor 2:12 when I came to Troas to *preach* Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord

once Great Tribulation starts

Rev 15:8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled (vials of the wrath of God, no mercy)

and ye begin to stand without...left out, standing outside His house

and to knock at the door saying Lord, Lord open unto us...pleading to be let in,
crying out for the closed door to be opened for you
(but it is too late)

I know not whence ye are...I do not know which people you are,

I do not know our relation

Matt 7:13-15, 21-27

Now, the “disconnect” in perspective is revealed

We have eaten and drunk in Your presence...(I know not whence you are):

We were with You...socially

You were in our midst

But you were never born-again

But you never followed Me, never took up your cross,

You were never My disciples

You knew about Me but you never knew Me

You never trusted Me with your whole heart

We are OK, we carry Your name

But on your terms, not Mine (1 Cor 15:31)

You took My name in vain (unworthily, as a façade)

We have no relation

and You have taught in our streets...(I know not whence you are):

We heard many sermons and went to some Bible studies

But you were not hearing...believing, doing, obeying, submitting

Luke 6:46 *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things
which I say?*

We are OK, we are Your people

We have no relation

depart from Me, all ye workers of iniquity

The unworthy and unclean are purged, sent away from His presence

Our High Priest makes a difference between holy and unholy,
and between unclean and clean

John 1:10-13 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and
the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his
own received him not. But as many as received him, to
them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to
them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of
blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man,
but of God

They do not have the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ Who shed His sinless blood as a ransom to remove the stain of sin from whosoever would believe in Him

Jesus is clearly teaching that there were/are many people who thought/think they were/are saved from the judgment of God who were/are not
In Matthew's account (in the Galilee), many false prophets/teachers will seek to "broaden" the way and deceive many (because they know not the Word of God)
Sound doctrine does matter...for all eternity!!!

This was alarming news to the religious Jews, who thought heaven was a spiritual birthright
But they despised their birthright! (Rom 2:28-29)

Unbelief was their problem

2 Cor 3:14-15 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which *vail* is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.

2 Cor 4:4 the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them

Being Jewish does not save a Jew

Is "being a Christian" any different?

"Being a Christian" is NOT

- being raised in a Christian home
- going to a Christian school
- going to church
- taking Holy Communion
- saying you are a Christian

"Being a Christian" is

- "in Christ"
- following Jesus
- taking up your cross
- losing your life (will)
- doing the Father's will

There are MANY social Christians

- talk the talk but do not walk the walk...hearers but not doers (James 1:22)
- have a spoken faith but not a saving faith (action, fruit worthy of repentance)
- not epistles of Christ
 - 2 Cor 3:3 written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart
- seek to please their flesh vs Jesus...not new creatures in Christ
 - 2 Cor 5:17 if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new
- living for themselves, not for Jesus Christ
 - 2 Cor 5:15 He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves
- yoked to this world, not to Jesus Christ
 - 2 Cor 6:17-18 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty
- are in grave eternal danger unless they repent and heed God's clear and stern warning

There are MANY "Christians"

who think they are OK with God because they are "a good person" in their own opinion...Luke 11:35

who embrace/allow/tolerate sin that God hates...

homosexuality, murder of innocent babies, fornication, adultery, lying, cheating, and stealing...

and think they are OK with God because they go to church...

but have never fallen broken at the foot of the Cross...

are not born again of the Spirit of God

The Father did not make His Son sin, and Jesus did not suffer and die, for social relationships or for a "label"

Jesus Christ is Lord – Supreme Authority

Following Jesus (His call to disciples) costs...everything

Following Jesus is SO MUCH MORE than saying "I believe"

because "I believe" = doing

It takes determined, continual effort to follow Jesus

Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would

Entry into the kingdom of God and eternal life: God's terms and God's perspective

God knows who are His...self-deception is a serious problem for people (Jer 17:9)

Until we see Jesus face-to-face, is the Word of God our Final Authority?

Does it govern our lives?

Are we bearing fruit pleasing to the Father?

What is needed for those "Christians" who have deceived themselves about their salvation?

Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand!!!

v28-29 weeping and gnashing of teeth...thrust out:

How long will their weeping and gnashing of teeth be?

Forever

On Judgment Day when the clean are separated from the unclean...surprise!

The unclean will see faithful Jews entering into the kingdom of God...
and unworthy/unfaithful Jews thrust out

Lev 26:24 Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will
punish you yet seven times for your sins

The unclean will see faithful Gentiles enter into rest in the kingdom of
God...and unworthy/unfaithful Gentiles ejected/denied entry

Jesus revealed this in Galilee (Matt 8:11-12)

The Holy Spirit gave more revelation

Gal 3:6-29

Heb 3:1 – 4:3, 11

v30 last shall be first...first shall be last:

Jesus said this repeatedly...henceforth from this teaching

Matt 19:30

Matt 20:16

Mark 10:31

The last (to hear of the kingdom) are the Gentiles

They shall enter first

Luke 17:21 the kingdom of God is within you

Acts

The first (to know of the Kingdom) are the Jews (Matt 15:24, 26)

They shall enter last

Rom 11:11 Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather* through their fall salvation *is* *come* unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

Rom 11:23 if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again

Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in

Rom 11:26 after Ezk 20:33-44

Rev 7. 14, 11

Zech 12:10

The mystery of the Kingdom of God

Salvation is an event, being born of the Spirit of God that bears fruit worthy of repentance

Sanctification (Rom 8:29) is a process that takes a lifetime of dying (to self) daily
Rom 12:1-2

In how we see, think, and act, we must John 3:30

Move from our perspective to God's perspective (revealed in His Word) in all things

We need to not see and understand (rightly divide) the Bible from our perspective but from God's

This mystery of the kingdom of God...eternity hangs in the balance!

Call to the social Christians:

Lay down your lives

Lay down your opinions

Repent of your unbelief

Believe – obey, do

Be reconciled unto God

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord

By faith follow Jesus

Find a church that teaches the Word of God...systematically, verse-by-verse (Gen – Rev)

Exhortation to those with saving faith (action, fruit):

Press on!

2 Cor 4:16-18 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal

Never give up!

Work out what God has worked in!