

WILL ONLY A FEW BE SAVED?

LUKE 13:23-30

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. Throughout His ministry... Jesus clarified and expanded His teaching ... by answering questions that people asked Him.
- b. On one occasion... the Lord was asked a very provocative question...
Luke 13:23 "Lord, will only a few people be saved?"

II. MESSAGE OF SALVATION-

- a. The gospel of Jesus Christ... and the message of Christianity... is a message of salvation.
- b. (Parable of the Sower) *Luke 8:12 (NKJV) "Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved."*
- c. *John 3:17 (HCSB) "For God did not send His Son into the world that He might condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."*
- d. *Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*
- e. (Philippian Jailor) *Acts 16:30-31 (NKJV) "And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."*
- f. *Romans 5:9-10 "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."*

- g. *Romans 10:9-10, 13 (NKJV) “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”*
- h. *Ephesians 2:8 (NIV) “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.”*

III. SAVED FROM WHAT-

- a. When the gospel is preached or shared... many people ask... “Saved from what?”
- b. #1, The salvation that Jesus offers... saves a person from an unfulfilled, empty, dissatisfied and wasted life.
- c. There is a part of us that only God can fill... that is how God made us.
- d. And until a person comes to know God in a personal way through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ ... no matter how rich, popular, and famous they are...there will always be something missing in their life
- e. Some of the most miserable people in this world... are people who seemingly have it all.
- f. Ultimate and lasting fulfillment in life can only be found... in Jesus Christ.
- g. The Lord Jesus made this point in Mark 8:35-36... *“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?”*
- h. Even if you gained the whole world... something will always be missing in your life.

- i. Jesus said that if you hold on to your life... if you live life the way you want to live it... and refuse to give your life to Christ... you will never know the real meaning and purpose of life ... and if you die holding on to your life...you will lose your soul for all eternity.
- j. This world is filled with so many miserable people... who are trying to find meaning and purpose in life.
- k. They go from one experience to another... searching for what is missing in their life ... but they will never find it because they refuse to come to Christ.
- l. So many people... are wasting their lives... throwing their lives away ... on things that may seem great and important now... but in eternity they will not matter.
- m. And the longer they refuse to come to Christ... sin's grip on their life becomes stronger...and the harder their heart becomes toward God.
- n. Life is precious... you have one life to live... and if you want to find lasting happiness and fulfillment in life ... you must come to Jesus Christ and receive Him as your Savior and Lord.
- o. What does Jesus save us from?... He saves us from a lost and empty life.
- p. #2, Jesus saves us from a lost eternity... the salvation Jesus gives is more than being delivered from an empty life in this world... Jesus saves those who trust in Him from a lost eternity.
- q. One day you will stand before God... and you will give an account to Him for how you lived the life that He gave you.
- r. *Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV) "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."*
- s. When you stand before the God Who made you... before the God who has blessed you... Who has made all the good things in your life

possible... the first question that will be answered is this... “What did you do with Jesus Christ... the Son of God... who died on the cross to pay the penalty of your sins... and make your salvation possible?”

- t. The answer to the question... “What did you do with Jesus?”... will determine your eternal destiny.
- u. Do you want to be saved from an empty and wasted life?... Do you want to go to Heaven?... believing in Jesus and receiving Him as your Savior and Lord Christ is the only way.
- v. *John 14:6 (NKJV) “Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*
- w. Why is Jesus the way?... and why is He the only way?
- x. Because when Jesus was on the cross...in a way we can never understand... our sins were transferred to Him.
- y. When Jesus was on the cross... He took the full force and measure of God’s wrath and judgment for our sins upon Himself... over and over the Bible says on the cross Jesus died for us ... and when He arose from the dead...He made the forgiveness of our sin possible.
- z. Jesus is the only way because there is no other way that God’s judgment for our sins can be satisfied... and there is no other way that the debt of our sins can be forgiven.
- aa. The safest place to go in a fire... is where the fire has already burned ... the only place you can go where the fire of God’s wrath against your sin has already burned is the cross of Calvary.
- bb. And when you trust in Jesus Christ...the One who died there for your sins... and the One who rose again...you will be forgiven... finally, fully and forever.

- cc. You can't save you... I can't save you... the church can't save you ... no human being, group or power can save you... the only One who can save you is Jesus Christ.
- dd. If you want to be saved... from an empty life and a lost eternity... you must believe in Jesus... and receive Him as your Lord and Savior.
- ee. What happens to those who reject Christ... to those who ignore Him ... to those who refuse to believe in Him?
- ff. They will be eternally lost... and separated forever from the God they denied, ignored and rejected... in a place of outer darkness and suffering... where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

IV. GOD WANTS TO SAVE YOU-

- a. The good news is God wants to save you... God does not want anyone to be lost.
- b. *Ezekiel 33:11 (NKJV) "Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'"*
- c. *2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV) "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*
- d. The judgment of God comes... only after His goodness, grace, mercy and love has long been rejected and denied many times over.
- e. For a person to go to hell... they have to literally run over and run through the grace and goodness of God every day.
- f. It is not a light thing for a person to reject Christ ... it is not a light thing for a person to refuse to obey the gospel.

- g. What happens when a person says no to Christ?... *Hebrews 10:29 (NKJV) "Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?"*
- h. To "trample something under foot" means to treat something with scorn and disdain... to treat something as worthless.
- i. To reject Jesus is to treat Him and what He did at the cross... as worthless... as nothing.
- j. To reject Jesus... is to treat His blood... the blood that He shed on the cross for our sins... as vile, common and useless.
- k. To reject Jesus... is to insult the Holy Spirit... who works in the heart of every lost person... to bring them to Christ.
- l. No... it is not a small thing... to reject Christ... and say no to God.
- m. The good news is... it is never too late in this life to be saved... one day knowing Jesus and living for the Lord... is better than 10,000 days living for Satan in the bondage to sin.
- n. It is also good news that no one is so lost...that they cannot be saved.
- o. No matter who you are... no matter what you have done... you are not too lost to be saved.
- p. No matter who you are... no matter what you have done... if you come to Christ in repentance and faith... if you believe in Jesus and receive Him as your Savior and Lord... He will save you.
- q. The church of Jesus Christ... is filled with all kinds of ex-rascals, scoundrels and degenerates ... that God has saved by His grace.

V. WHY DON'T PEOPLE GET SAVED?

- a. If all of this is true... then why don't people get saved?
- b. #1, Many people are not saved...because they don't believe they are lost.
- c. Many people reject what the Bible says... about being lost and separated from God... and the need to be saved.
- d. Many people say that they may not be perfect... but they are not all that bad either... they believe that if there is a God... they believe he, she or it... will judge them to be okay.
- e. #2, Others don't get saved because they are deceived into believing they are saved... when they are not.
- f. In some of the most frightening verses in the Bible... Jesus describes the judgment of false believers.
- g. *Matthew 7:21-23 (NKJV) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*
- h. You can make a mistake and be deceived about a lot of things... but to be deceived about whether or not you are saved will be disastrous.
- i. #3, Others don't get saved because they don't want too... they like their life... they like their sin... and they are not going to change... and they are not going to give anything up.
- j. #4, Others don't get saved...because they are waiting for the right time.
- k. Do you know when the best time to be saved is?... since none of us is promised tomorrow...right now...today... is the best time to be saved.

- l. #5, Others don't get saved... because they believe in false religions ... and in false gods.
- m. #6, Others don't get saved... because they have never heard a clear presentation of the gospel... no one has ever shared the gospel with them.
- n. Today the church is the sower... and we are to sow or spread the gospel in our community and in the world... the churches job is to sow... to preach, proclaim, share... the gospel of Jesus Christ with everyone.
- o. Sometime our witness for Christ will fall on hard hearts... crowded hearts... and shallow hearts... but sometime our witness will fall on the hearts of those whom God has made ready to hear the gospel... and they will be saved.
- p. But the Bible says that even if a person never sees a church or hears a witness from a church... whether they live in America where there are many churches ...or whether they live in the world where there are few Christians and few churches... they are without excuse.
- q. The Holy Spirit of God is in the world witnessing to the lost every day ... even to those who live in foreign and pagan lands... bringing conviction of sin to their hearts, minds, and consciences... warning them of a judgment to come...and drawing them to seek the one true God.
- r. And if a person responds to the witness of the Holy Spirit in their heart ... if they follow the light of truth that they have been given... God will make sure that they will find Christ... even if He has to parachute a missionary to where they are.
- s. No one leaves this world without a witness from God... and if they had followed that witness... they would have found Christ.

- t. No one could blame Noah for being lost in the flood... he would hammer a while and preach a while... but no one believed and they were lost.
- u. No one could blame Lot for them being burned up in Sodom and Gomorrah ... Lot tried to live right and he tried to be a witness for the true God ... but no one would believe... no one would turn from their sin.
- v. If a person leaves this world having never believed in Christ... no matter where they lived in this world... it is their fault... and their fault alone.

VI. CONCLUSION-

- a. Are you saved?... Have you given your life to Christ?... Why aren't you saved?
- b. Today I want to ask you to be saved... I want to ask you to give your life to Christ.
- c. On one occasion... a man asked Paul and Silas... *Acts 16:30-31*
"What must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."
- d. What does believe mean?... it means to believe the truth about who Jesus is... and what Jesus has done to make our salvation possible ... it means to repent of one's sins and give their life to Christ.
- e. Are you willing to do that today?