

Jesus Told Us:
Parable of the Narrow Door
September 23, 2018
Luke 13:20-30

The Parable of the Yeast

20 And again he said, 'To what should I compare the kingdom of God? ²¹It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

The Narrow Door

22 Jesus went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. ²³Someone asked him, 'Lord, will only a few be saved?' He said to them, ²⁴**Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able.** ²⁵When once the owner of the house has got up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, "Lord, open to us", then in reply he will say to you, "I do not know where you come from." ²⁶Then you will begin to say, "We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets." ²⁷But he will say, "I do not know where you come from; go away from me, all you evildoers!" ²⁸**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, and you yourselves thrown out.** ²⁹**Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God.** ³⁰Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.'

Jesus Told Us! (How many ways can Jesus Tell us?)

Jesus often spoke in Parables.

PARABLES...

Often when Jesus speaks ... we hear a piercing word ... a challenging word...

A word that can transform our lives! And When listen ... we discover that the word of hope is not always easy to hear!

Let's take a closer look at what Jesus was about with these verses in the Gospel of LUKE:

The MESSAGE BIBLE:

20 He(Jesus) tried again. "How can I picture God's kingdom?"

21 It's like yeast that a woman works into enough dough for three loaves of bread - and waits while the dough rises."

22 Jesus went on teaching from town to village, village to town, but keeping on a steady course toward Jerusalem.

23 A bystander said, "Master, will only a few be saved?"

24 "Whether few or many is none of your business. Put your mind on your life with God. The way to life - to God! - is vigorous and requires your total attention. A lot of you are going to assume that you'll sit down to God's salvation banquet just because you've been hanging around the neighborhood all your lives.

25 Well, one day you're going to be banging on the door, wanting to get in, but you'll find the door locked and the Master saying, 'Sorry, you're not on my guest list.'

26 "You'll protest, 'But we've known you all our lives!'

27 only to be interrupted with his abrupt, 'Your kind of knowing can hardly be called knowing. You don't know the first thing about me.'

28 "That's when you'll find yourselves out in the cold, strangers to grace. You'll watch Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets march into God's kingdom.

29 You'll watch outsiders stream in from east, west, north, and south and sit down at the table of God's kingdom. And all the time you'll be outside looking in - and wondering what happened.

30 This is the Great Reversal: the last in line put at the head of the line, and the so-called first ending up last.

There are there smells better than fresh baked bread ... yes, BUT those things are few ... (Cinnamon Rolls ... BUT technically, they are bread too!) The Kingdom of God is like a little yeast kneaded into three loaves of bread... I don't know about you ... But I am so eager to experience the aroma of the Kingdom of GOD!

Jesus is near the people as he makes his way to Jerusalem on this journey! One asks ...

Jesus ... Will only a few be saved?

24Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able.

And the parable ...

²⁵When once the owner of the house has got up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, "Lord, open to us", then in reply he will say to you, "I do not know where you come from." ²⁶Then you will begin to say, "We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets." ²⁷But he will say, "I do not know where you come from; go away from me, all you evildoers!"

But Jesus. Surely you don't mean any of us? Surely you don't mean that the door will be so narrow and even closed when we arrive!?!?

(Well ... Don't call me Surely) The meaning of this Parable can't mean what you are saying!!! You can't leave us out! WE ARE ENTITLED! ENTITLEMENT ... Wrong in Politics / WRONG in leverage for the Kingdom of GOD!?!?!)

Isn't there a part of us that is ready to give up ... right now ... if the door you speak of is to be closed when we who give our lives to you arrive ... then why should we remain faithful?

Why should we care? Why should we keep on loving? What's the Deal Jesus?

AND THEN ... Jesus continues:

28 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, and you yourselves thrown out.

29 Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God.

All the pre Jesus faithful are in side this Kingdom...

WE ARE STILL OUT ... And Jesus it even sounds like you have more venom against us as you say ... **and you yourselves thrown out.**

OUCH ... YES Weeping and GNASHING of Teeth!

OUCH ...

And now ... now

29 Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God.

FROM East and West, From North and South ... they will be eating in the Kingdom of God!??!

But Lord ... do you know who comes from the East / west / north and south

NOTHING GOOD ... comes from anywhere but right hear! ONLY HERE matters LORD!!! We have been here all along! Right?

30 Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.

30 This is the Great Reversal: the last in line put at the head of the line, and the so-called first ending up last.

Jesus, Lord? What's the good word for us who live in faith / hope / surrender to you and your will?

It is as though when we listen today ... the DOOR is too narrow to include us?

We love you Lord?

We trust you Lord!

Jesus we cling to the words you spoke when teaching us to pray in Luke 11:

9 'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.

¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish?

¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹

³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

When we get to that door ...

Knock knock

Who's there?

It's Jesus, Let me in

Why?

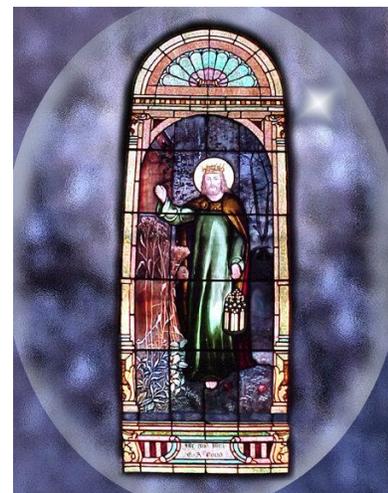
I have to save you

From What?

From what I'm going do to you if you don't let me in!

Lord we have heard you speak to us with the words of Revelation 3:20:

Behold, I stand at the door and knock:



Revelation 3:20:

RSV

²⁰Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

NRSV

²⁰Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.

It is you who stands at the door and knocks for us to pay attention! We listen for you knock on the doors of our hearts / our lives / our actions / our ways of faith...

Lord, help us when we are feeling entitled to your saving grace at the front of the line. Help us when we see ourselves before all others. Especially those from the east and west and north and south! Anyone who is not in our inner circle ... for you will call out for all others before us. You humble us into submission and service ... for that ... we believe and know that we are grateful! Lord we listen for your knock ... not ours. Your grace alone brings the love of your mighty kingdom! ... AMEN.

Trust and Obey

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 467
Text: John H. Sammis, 1846-1919

1. When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

2. Not a burden we bear,
not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief or a loss,
not a frown or a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey.

(Refrain)

3. But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows,
for the joy he bestows,
are for them who will trust and obey.

(Refrain)

4. Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey.

(Refrain)