

# The DAILY JESUS NEWS #197

## Jesus' Ministry in Jerusalem at the Feast of dedication

### Jesus Travels to Jerusalem While Teaching Along the Way

LK 13.22-30

22 Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. 23 Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?"

He said to them, 24 *"I command you to make every ongoing effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not have the ability to do so."*

25 *"Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.'*

*"But he will answer, 'I don't know you, or where you come from.'*

26 *"Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'*

27 *"But he will reply, 'I don't know you, or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'*

28 *"There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out."*

29 *"People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. 30 Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last."*

=====

NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Somewhere in Judea, on the Road to Jerusalem
Timeline	Early December (Month 35)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	E. Jesus' Ministry in Jerusalem at the Feast of Dedication
Title	I. Jesus Travels to Jerusalem While Teaching Along the Way

#### COMMENT:

This text shows us that Jesus was traveling from town to village throughout Judea on his exhaustive Fall tour of the region. It was December, and Jesus was wrapping up the tour by heading to Jerusalem again to attend the Feast of Dedication.

As Jesus and a large group of about 120 disciples were traveling along the way, he was asked a pertinent question. "Lord are only a few people going to be saved?"



## The DAILY JESUS NEWS #197

This inquiry sounds almost theoretical. It asks about the big picture--will the majority of people in the world be saved, or lost? What will be the proportion of saved people to lost people?

Jesus did not answer the question directly. He redirected it to each individual life. The important thing was not the ratio of saved to unsaved people in the world, it was whether each individual received salvation or not. The statistics concerning the number of saved people do not matter if we are individually lost, just as the general statistics on the number of people who do not die from heart attacks do not matter if we are an individual who dies from one. The only statistic that matters is what happens to us, not others, when it comes to personal salvation.

Jesus therefore gave a command for each of us to make an ongoing, top priority of **"entering through the narrow door."** Jesus himself is the "door." There are many opinions about salvation in the world today, with countless ideas about how to obtain it. Because Jesus alone is the door, every other method is doomed to failure.

Jesus was telling all people that it is only through a faith-relationship with him that anybody can experience salvation. Therefore, he gave the command to make the pursuit of a relationship with him be the object of an ongoing, serious, determined quest.

Sadly, most people ignore this command from Jesus. The results are tragic. Once we have died and arrive in God's presence for judgement, it is too late to change the outcome. The door will be closed on our chance to enter the "door" of a relationship with Jesus. It will be too late to be saved.

This brief parable communicates a solemn, serious warning from Jesus. We all need to act on it.

### APPLICATION:

If you have already believed in Jesus as your "door" into salvation, pointing others to faith in him should be a high priority. People need to know what Jesus said and did for their salvation in order to believe in him.

*Have you already entered the "door" of salvation yourself?*

*What can you do to more effectively help others to know about Jesus through personal evangelism?*