

Introduction:

- The story is told of a little Jimmy who came home from school; And asked his parents 'the' question they all dread to hear; "Dad, where did I come from?" Dad in his wisdom replied; "Good question son, go ask your mother!" So off he went to find his mother; When he found her he said: "Mom, where did I come from?" She replied; "Good question, go ask your father!" Jimmy replied; "I've asked him and he sent me to you!! Mom sits Jimmy down and starts to explain the story of the 'birds and the bees' etc; As she is explaining the facts of life to little Jimmy. Jimmy's eyes got wider and wider, his mouth falls further and further open. When she had finished she asked Jimmy; "Does that help?" He replied; "Not really, my friend Mikey says he is from Kentucky. Where did I come from?" APPLICATION: Sometimes you have to know what is behind the question being asked, In order to understand the question in the first place. And the same is true regarding the questions asked in our passage. But I want you to notice, That to each question, Jesus gives a straight answer.
 - A question is asked of Jesus on this day and this 'someone' gets an answer that leaves him wide eyed and mouth open.
- *"Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he went, always pressing on toward Jerusalem. Someone asked him, Lord, will only a few be saved?" He replied, "Work hard to enter the narrow door to God's Kingdom, for many will try to enter but will fail."* (Luke 13:22-24-30, NLT)
- Jesus answer reveals to this man three things: There are those who cannot enter the Kingdom of God. There are those who think they should enter the kingdom of God. And there are those who actually do enter the Kingdom of God.

I. Those Who Cannot Enter The Kingdom Of God

- A. The Bible is quite clear in communicating that not everyone will enter the Kingdom of God.
 1. When Adam sinned, what did he lose? Did he lose his salvation? No because he had never been saved. No, he lost something more.
 2. Adam lost life and in losing life he loses the Kingdom. Adam was banished from the Kingdom. He was now self governing. IE. All one has to do is watch the news and see the blood, wars, hatred, fear, poverty, rape, genocide, bombings, murders, economic fears, uncertainty, moral decay etc. All a picture of how well man self governs. Ie. Well if everyone would just get saved...look at how well man self governs in the church. Broken homes, fearful children, fighting parents, divorce, poverty from divorce and separation, splits in the church, addictions, divisions and contentions, falling ministers...all a picture of man self governing in the church.
 3. What did Adam lose? He lost the 'dominion given to him in Gen 1:26. *"You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority"*– (Ps 8:6) NLT He lost authority. He lost the Kingdom and therefore he lost his right to rule (including the

serpent.) All sin is a result of this treason of Adam. He lost a kingdom not a religion. He lost a Kingdom not Christianity.

4. Without the Kingdom we are therefore under Satan's rule.
- B. Those who are sinful. In three separate places Paul writes these will not inherit the Kingdom.
 1. *"Don't you realize that those who do wrong **will not inherit the Kingdom of God?** Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God." (1 Cor 6:9-10, NLT) He said it twice in those two verses. Must be important!*
 2. *"envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life **will not inherit the Kingdom of God.**" (Read-Galatians 5:19-21, NLT)*
 3. His message does not change: *"You can be sure that **no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.**" (Ephesians 5:5, NLT)*
- C. Those who are good...will not inherit the Kingdom. Some people, many people, think that by being good they will get into heaven. NO! Being good does not get you in. Being good does not nullify sin.
 1. IE. *A religious poll showed that 85% of people who believe in heaven but are not christian felt they were good enough to get into heaven. 85% believed they were good enough to get into heaven. But being good does not get you in.*
 2. Here is the assumption is that people make: although some "bad" people may need punishment, most are generally "good" and entitled to heaven. Entitled...they deserve... wrong. But Jesus says, *"Only God is good."* Mark 10:18
 3. We compare ourselves with sinful people to see ourselves as not so bad. But...*"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."* (Romans 3:23, NLT)
 4. *"For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven."* (Matthew 5:20, NKJV)
 5. One cannot trust in their own goodness to get into heaven. Put your goodness next to God's holiness. What do you see? Not so good is it. Man comes to a wedding Mt 22:9 sits down because he was invited but he did not have on a wedding garment and he is thrown out.

II. Those Who Think They Should Enter The Kingdom of God But Can't

- A. *"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."* (Matthew 7:21, NKJV) Lord Lord, sounds submitted. But the heart is far away. You can be submitted and not have your heart invested.
- B. List of accomplishments.
 1. Look at our good works. This group just doesn't think they are good, they actually have the works to prove it. This group of people are actually those who are really

- going after God, or once, were really going after God. Look at their list of accomplishments.
2. *"On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.'"* (Matthew 7:22, NLT)
- C. We were born into this. We are Jews. *"Our father is Abraham!" they declared. "No," Jesus replied, "for if you were really the children of Abraham, you would follow his example."* (John 8:39, NLT) IE. Those who grow up in Christian homes just assume they are in because they basically live good lives.
- D. Based on merritt. Mk 10:18,19 I have kept all the commands. That should get me in right? Jesus invites him to sell all and follow him. He can't. It is a question of the Lordship and that is an issue of the heart.
- E. Entitlement based on wealth. Rich young ruler. Again Mk 10:18,19
1. This guy was a 'good guy'. He kept the law. Was religious, but missing the Kingdom.
 2. *"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven."* (Matthew 19:23, NKJV)
- F. 'Someone' asked Jesus, How many do you think will get into heaven? Jesus' answer is causes him to think about more than numbers. It cause him to look at his own heart. By placing the focus NOT ON OTHERS ('how many') But on the individual (vs 24: "Make every effort" vs 24: "I tell you"). So the response of Jesus; *Would make the questioner and all the people rethink their own beliefs.*

III. Those Who Have Entered The Kingdom of God In Mt 19:25 the disciples at this point were asking the right question: *"Then who can be saved?"* Back to our question: *Will only a few be saved?*

- A. They did so by striving. *"Work hard to enter the narrow door to God's Kingdom, for many will try to enter but will fail."* (Luke 13:24, NLT) There you have it! Jesus says work hard or strive to get into the Kingdom.
1. Αγριζωμαι - strive, work hard. The word that is translated as "make every effort" (NIV) or "strive" (NKJV) try (NLT) is a word that was often used to describe the mindset of an athlete in a contest or to describe a soldier in a war. (Seal in BUD camp) Both are committed to their cause!
 2. That word, strive, means to exert great effort and is used in contexts of fighting, and contending for a prize.
 3. If you are a follower Jesus, you must be serious, diligent, and even labor hard (expend energy). Is this contrary to the gospel of grace, God wooing and drawing people to himself? No. Pursuing Christ and his kingdom requires a seriousness and diligence, not floating or coasting along.

- a) Heb 4:11 *Let us strive to enter into His rest.*
 - b) *"Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses."* (1 Timothy 6:12, NLT)
4. There are those who strive to enter and those who seek. Lk 13:24 Many will seek/try to enter but will fail.
- a) They seek but they are not 'seeking first'. Their seeking has no priority therefore it shows in their walk.
 - b) The striver is focused, energized, living in pursuit of the goal - the Kingdom of God.
- B. They did so by being made righteous through faith.
1. *"We are made righteous with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are."* (Romans 3:22, NLT)
- C. They did so through Jesus, alone. Jesus is the narrow door. Luke 13:24
1. Jesus is laying out the restrictions of getting in. Wide road is any choice outside of Christ. Narrow road is Christ alone. John 10:9 Jesus says, *I Am the door!*"
- D. They did so by being born again. Nicodemus
1. *"Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.""* (John 3:3, NLT)
 2. *"Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit."* (John 3:5, NLT)
 - a) Repentance - water. Repentance is the work of man by his choice. That is why John said I baptize with water.
 - b) Spirit - He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- E. They did so by not stopping.
1. *"that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory."* (1 Thessalonians 2:12, NKJV) Enoch, Noah, Moses David all walked with God.
- F. James show me your works. James 2:14-26
1. If you have faith you better have works.
 2. And if you have works you better have faith.

Conclusion:

- "Someone' asked...That someone is you.
- Leave it to Jesus to get to look at our own hearts.
- Let me ask 'someone' this morning, which group are you in today?
 - Those who cannot enter the Kingdom of God...sinful or good.
 - Those who think you are entering the Kingdom of God but are not....trust in works, goodness,
 - Those who have entered the Kingdom of God by faith. You have been born again. And you live striving to enter everyday.
- Invitation:

- *"and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3, NKJV)*
- *"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:23, NKJV)*
- *"Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."" (Mark 10:15, NKJV)*
- *"Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!"" (Mark 10:23, NKJV)*
- *"And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!" (Mark 10:24, NKJV)*
- *"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."" (Mark 10:25, NKJV)*
- *"for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:17, NKJV)*
- *"For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power." (1 Corinthians 4:20, NKJV)*
- *"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love," (Colossians 1:13, NKJV)*
- *"that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory." (1 Thessalonians 2:12, NKJV)*
- *"which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer;" (2 Thessalonians 1:5, NKJV)*
- *"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." (Hebrews 12:28, NKJV)*
- *"Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?" (James 2:5, NKJV)*
- *"Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down." (Revelation 12:10, NKJV)*
- *"Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." But after that no one dared question Him." (Mark 12:34, NKJV)*