"Making Every Effort"
Luke 13:22-30

C.I.T.—Salvation is urgent.
C.I.S.—We must advance the Kingdom of God with urgency.
Purpose—We must have a sense of urgency when it comes to Kingdom Work because salvation is urgent.
Introduction—Make every effort

***I.*** ***The Options are Limited.*** Vs. 22-24
- a. Concern for number to be saved
- b. The Door is Narrow
- **c. Matthew 7:13-14; John 14:6, Acts 4:12**
- d. There is no other way to be saved from sin and hell than through faith in Jesus Christ.
- e. Illus.-Religious Pluralism states that all religions eventually make their way to God and heaven, if that is true then why Jesus and his death on the cross
- f. Application
    - i. There is only one way to heaven and to salvation, and that is through faith in Jesus Christ.
    - ii. There is no other way to get to Heaven and therefore we must make every effort to access that one way and to show others that one way, that narrow door.

***II.*** ***The Opportunities are Limited.*** Vs. 24-27
- a. There will be a time when people, you, who haven't entered through the door will want to enter, but will not be able to.
- b. Example of a homeowner who has shut the door for the night.
    - i. The homeowner gathered his family, servants, and livestock into the home.
    - ii. He locked the outside door.
    - iii. Everyone he knew was safe inside.
    - iv. The only people who could be outside would be those who were not part of his household.
    - v. Therefore he concludes that he doesn't know them.
- c. Their excuses.
    - i. Jesus you know us.
    - ii. We ate and drank with you—fellowship
    - iii. You taught in our streets—ministry
    - iv. Covenant people who had been in proximity of Jesus, yet hadn't accepted Christ as Lord and Savior.
    - v. They had not entered the door.
- d. These people had an opportunity to enter through the door of faith in Jesus while he was fellowshipping and ministering to them, yet they didn't take that opportunity.
- **e. Isaiah 55:6**—Seek the Lord while he may be found…
- f. Illus.—Do you think people were knocking on the door of the ark?
- g. Application
    - i. If these people lived today, they would be Church attenders, Sunday School members, givers, and even servers.
    - ii. They paid for their kids to go to camp, brought them to Vacation Bible School, and even had them here for 1st Grade Bibles and Senior Recognition.
    - iii. They believed in Jesus, were favorable toward Jesus, wanted their kids to grow up in Church learning about Jesus.
    - iv. Yet, they had never gone through the narrow door of faith.
    - v. They knew it all but refused to accept Christ by faith.

vi. Now they have missed their opportunity to accept Christ.

**III.** ***The Outcomes are Limited*.** vs. 28-30

a. Place #1--Outside
   i. Weeping and gnashing of teeth—Misery and pain.
   ii. Reminder and regret

b. Place #2—Inside
   i. Banquet/feast at the Kingdom of God
   ii. All corners of the earth.
   iii. Last and first—didn't matter what you status was, if you accept Christ, you will take part in the eternal feast.

c. Illus.—Universalism—everyone will be saved, God is a loving God

d. Application
   i. There are only two options for what happens after we die: heaven and hell.
   ii. There is no purgatory where we can work our way into heaven.
   iii. There is a hell and people will be there because they are sinners against a Holy God and have not repented and accepted Christ.

Conclusion

- Christians should make every effort to show the lost world the narrow door.--**1 Corinthians 9:19-22**
- This is why we make every effort for this Reach Forward Campaign—to reach Acadiana for Christ and win some.
- You should make every effort to trust in Christ.

**Matthew 7:13** "Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. [14] How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.

**John 14:6** Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Acts 4:12** There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved."

**Isaiah 55:6** Seek the LORD while he may be found; call to him while he is near.

**1 Corinthians 9:19** Although I am free from all and not anyone's slave, I have made myself a slave to everyone, in order to win more people. [20] To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win Jews; to those under the law, like one under the law-- though I myself am not under the law-- to win those under the law. [21] To those who are without the law, like one without the law-- though I am not without God's law but under the law of Christ-- to win those without the law. [22] To the weak I became weak, in order to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by every possible means save some.

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