

Learning to Follow Jesus: The Importance of Now*Luke 13:22-30*

This study is week 3 of our *Season of Seeking*. So far in our studies, we've seen that if we are going to follow Jesus there are ways of thinking and living that we need to unlearn. We need to do this so we can learn from Jesus how to live and think. As well, we've seen how we need to take up the posture of a disciple and be one who gives Jesus our undivided attention. We need to listen to him. Today, we will see that if we want to follow Jesus as a disciple, we need to understand the importance of now.

Opening Discussion: What is an area of life that you live with a sense of urgency?

Read Luke 13:22-30

1. The question asked in verse 23 was a topic of debate among Jewish religious leaders during Jesus' day. Does Jesus answer it, ignore it, or do something else? Explain.
2. What is the "narrow door" (v. 24)? How does the parallel passage in Matthew 7:13-14 help us understand it?
3. What does it mean to "strive to enter" the narrow door (v. 24)?
4. Those who are shut out of the great banquet (i.e., the kingdom) were surprised (vv. 25-26). Why?
5. In our day, what are things that can give people a false sense of security about knowing Jesus when in fact they might not actually have a relationship with Jesus?

Brian said:

There are things that simply must not be put off until tomorrow. And so here is the point for us: **Now is the time to make sure we have entered through the narrow door.** Again, entering the narrow door is about turning from self to Jesus. It is about repentance. It's about turning from your sin and seeking forgiveness. Now is the time to be sure you have done this. The door of opportunity will be closed at some point. Have you entered through the narrow door? Are you sure?

6. Are you sure? When did you become sure?

7. What would you say to someone who is unsure if she is sure?

Brian said:

As believers, if we understand the importance of now, **we should seek to help others enter through the narrow door.** There is urgency to this. The door will be closed. But for many of us, myself included, it is so easy to live without urgency. We are busy with our own lives and we fail to think about the spiritual condition of others. Or we just tend to think that there is plenty of time. I have been to three funerals in the past five weeks or so. Thankfully, all of these were believers, but it is a reminder that we never know how much time we have with anyone. We need to understand the importance of now. One day the host will rise and close the door and it will be too late for any to enter. That should create some urgency especially as we understand the agony of being outside – weeping and gnashing of teeth; separation from God, and his kingdom, and all that is good.

8. Do you live with a sense of urgency when you think the spiritual condition of family, friends, co-workers, etc. who do not know Jesus? Explain.

9. What do you think it would mean to live with a sense of urgency? How would your life look different?

Practicing the Rhythms of Rooted this Week

Daily Devotion | Prayer | Repentance | Sacrificial Generosity | Serve the Community | Share Your Story | Worship



Daily Devotion: Use the daily devotionals in the Season of Seeking Guide to continue to seek Jesus.



Prayer: Brian challenged us to all pray for one person who does not know Jesus. Write down the name of one or two people and begin to pray for God to draw them to Christ.