

The Narrow Door

Luke 13:18-35

by Don Falkos

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On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus taught in many towns and villages:

The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed a man plants in his garden. The seed grows into a tree and birds come to nest in its branches. The Kingdom of God is like yeast a woman mixes with a large quantity of flour. She kneads it in until the dough rises.

Someone asked, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?"

Jesus replied, "Do everything you can to get in through the narrow door. Many will try to get in but won't be able to." Then he told a story:

When the owner of the house got up and locked the door, those who were trying to get in found themselves standing outside. They knocked at the door, shouting, "Lord, please open the door for us."

But the owner said, "I don't know who you are or where you come from. Get away from here."

Then, when it was too late, they wept and experienced bitter regret. They saw Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets; they saw people coming from every direction, taking their places in the Kingdom of God; but *they* were left outside.

Some Pharisees told Jesus, "You'd better get out of here. Herod is determined to kill you." Their warning prompted Jesus to mourn, not for himself but for Jerusalem.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how I've longed to gather your children together around me as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you've never let me. Now it's too late. Your house has been abandoned. You won't see me again until the day you welcome me saying, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' "