

ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW DOOR.

Shalom. May the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome, let us contemplate on the Word of God.

Luke 13:22-27 “

<sup>22</sup> *And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.*

<sup>23</sup> *Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,*

<sup>24</sup> *Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.*

<sup>25</sup> *When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:*

<sup>26</sup> *Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.*

<sup>27</sup> *But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.*

The words of the Lord Jesus Christ in verse 24 above are one of the startling statements he spoke. Elsewhere in the Scriptures (Matthew 12:31 and 7:22), he also uttered terrifying statements. When carefully dismantled, they cause terror and fright. They cannot be taken so lightly but need to be given special care. whatever the Lord says will always come to pass. On that night, Jesus told Peter that before the cock could crow, he'd disown three times. As surely as he'd prophesied, a few moments later, Peter denied three times that he knew him. immediately, the cock crowed.

In Matthew 7:22, the Lord said that on the Day of Judgment, many people would say to him the very things he'd foretold beforehand. There will appear before him as many preachers on that day, telling him of how they had prophesied, cast out demons and performed many miracles in his name, but he will refuse them. Let us therefore strive and always prayerfully ask God to help us that we may not be among the lot which shall be turned away.

Today, we shall learn and meditate upon the words of Jesus in Luke 13:24. He told us to "make every effort to enter through the narrow door." Let's read another scripture to help us get a clear picture of his words.

*Matthew 7:13 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

*<sup>14</sup> Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it".*

In the scripture above, there are two things: door(gate) and road(way). We are told that the road is narrow which leads to life. Along this road, one cannot journey by any means such as a motorcycle or a vehicle. It is impossible for many people to pass while holding hands. Why? Because the road is narrow and only one person can walk along it

Salvation is exclusively personal. All that the Lord requires is that we personally place our trust in him. He/she must deny themselves and decide to follow him. Jesus is the narrow road. When you choose to follow him, you mustn't come along with your religion or denomination. You got to let go of it and go to him as you are.

The Lord said that "THE DOOR IS NARROW." This means that where the narrow road ends is a door. This door is as narrow as the road itself.

It's impossible to pass along the road while driving or riding on a bicycle, how about at the door? It would mean that one cuts off some of his body parts if they should get through the door; because the body could be too big to let them enter the door. The Lord said;

*Matthew 5:30; "And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to lose a part of your body than for your whole body to go to hell."*

Salvation is infinitely costly. it's not easy. For this reason, Jesus told us to strive! We should try all means to enter through the narrow door. If we willingly commit to follow him, the Lord promises to help us in all things, (Matthew 19:26)

Is your wealth hindering you from seeking God? Lay them aside for a time. First seek the kingdom of God and all these shall be added to you. Are your family members keeping you from turning to God and to do his will? Remember that the road is narrow and it's impossible to pass along in groups. Lovingly tell your brothers that you are born again and have decided to follow Jesus at all costs.

We need to avoid the things which hinder us from entering into the heavenly kingdom, so we may attain the requirements for us to enter through the narrow door. We have to do quickly because a time will soon come when the door will be shut. Many will long to enter in but shall not be able. The Christian life is filled with struggles, but with the Lord on our side, nothing is impossible. If we let him have his way in our lives and rely on him, we shall be more than conquerors.

God bless you

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