

A person is asked **Lord, will those who are saved be few?** The question comes in the sense of **percentage**... *will salvation come to a small percentage?* Earlier in His ministry Jesus talked about this. Matthew 7:13-14

He doesn't give percentages, but it is clear that the percentage is small of those who enter The Kingdom of God. In today's passage, Jesus doesn't address the issue of percentages at all, but turns the conversation to the individual level. In essence, the issue isn't whether a few or a lot will be saved, the issue is, will you be saved"

EFFORT DEMANDED – VS22-24

Jesus said:...²⁴ *“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.”*

Jesus' response to this person's question is quite different than the way **Finney** or the greater number of **Evangelical Churches** would answer it today. What does Jesus mean by **STRIVE**? Is He saying that we must **WORK** for our salvation?

Scripture teaches categorically that salvation CANNOT be obtained by human works, because salvation is a gift of God's grace. Yet there is a part in which **human will** must be engaged. **For Example: one must...**

- _____: God supplies the faith to believe, but the individual desiring salvation must **act on the gift of faith** and choose to believe. **Ephesians 2:8-9**
- _____: God supplies the wherewith all to repent, but the individual desiring salvation must **engage their will** to repent. **Matthew 14:17; Acts 3:19-21**
- _____ Biblical salvation is not a matter of self fulfilment and life, but of **self-death** to live out the life of Christ within you. **Luke 9:23; Romans 6:1-10**

TRUTH POINT #1: Although God, through His Spirit, supplies everything to respond to His call to salvation, there remains a _____ **with our flesh** to respond. Our flesh does not want to go there. It never wants to go there!

WHY

The call to follow Christ is a call to **EXCHANGE**... to DIE to the flesh to LIVE in the Spirit. The flesh prefers **ADDITION**... it wants to add some “life in the Spirit” to its life in the flesh.

This explains the **struggle** and the **reason** many who want to obtain salvation, but cannot.

The call of Jesus is to **ABANDON** your life to follow Him, not **ADD** Him to your life. See it in the rich young ruler. **Matthew 19:16-22**

DESPARATION EXPRESSED – VS25A

Jesus continues an illustration. It shows “*the master of the house*” closing the door of entry. He is referring to The Father and the fact that the invitation to enter The Kingdom of God is not indefinite. This illustration harkens back to the story of Noah and his family entering the Ark and God closing the door so no one could enter (**Genesis 6-7**)

Jesus pointed out the desperation of those who were left outside when “**The Master**,” in His illustration, shut the door.

TRUTH POINT #2: God’s invitation to enter His Kingdom through Jesus is _____. The door is open now, but if you die today or Christ returns today, the door will close, and you will be left outside.

WHO ARE YOU – VS25B-27

What more chilling response could one have, who in a moment of desperation turns to God, but hears the response... ***I don’t know who you are!***

TRUTH POINT #3: When Jesus said “the master” does not know them or where they come from, He means that He does not know them in a _____ way. If God does not know you through a saving relationship with Jesus, there is _____ for you in His kingdom.

A PEEK INTO ETERNITY – VS28-30

Jesus pulls back the curtain of time to give His audience a peek into the future. His audience that day was primarily Jewish and so He makes reference to their patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

They knew it to be true, and Jesus verifies that they are in God’s Kingdom. In fact, they will be feasting with the prophets and other kingdom members, but *you*, Jesus says, *will be cast out!*

If that was not insulting enough, Jesus goes on to talk about **PEOPLE** who will come from the east, west, north, and south, and join the patriarchs at the table of God. The “people” Jesus refers to are born-again gentiles.

They are the people whom the Jews considered to be LAST, of course they considered themselves to be FIRST. But Jesus forecasts a day when the false reality the Jews clung to would be turned up-side-down and inside-out. They thought they were automatically IN The Kingdom because of their heritage. Jesus says **NO!**

We do not get through the NARROW DOOR because our parents did, nor because we came in contact with the wisdom of GOD through the teaching of His Word.

TRUTH POINT #4: Sinners can only enter the narrow door when by _____ the reject any self-effort to gain favor with God and embrace the **door Himself**, Jesus, The Christ. **See John 10:9**

WRAP UP

Only God knows the number of those who will be saved and so we are wise to leave that issue to Him. However, He has given us this promise... *Whosoever calls on the name of The Lord, shall be saved.* Romans 10:13

Where do you stand today. Like the illustration of the refrigerator and it's handles, are you trying to get through the Narrow Door with the **protrusions** of **sin** and **self**? There are many doors that are wide. Doors that will allow you to maintain your "protrusions."

The door of **self-reform** is broad.

The door of **religion** is broader.

The door of **unbelief** broader still.

But the broad door leads to eternal destruction

Only ONE DOOR leads to eternal life and it is narrow. The **Good News is this**... anyone can enter through the narrow door if they are willing to turn to Christ and follow Him.

What is your next step today?

- Turn from self and sin and enter the narrow door of Christ Jesus?
Let's talk about it
- You've entered the narrow door, but gone no further. It's time to take steps of spiritual growth. **Let's talk**
- You've entered the narrow door, but are not sharing that good news with others. **Let's talk** and get you equipped to share your faith and help others become fully functioning followers of Christ.

Whatever your next step is, **let's talk** to Jesus together so that you can find rest for your soul.