



**“Many Will Seek to Enter
the Kingdom, And Will
Not Be Able”**

Luke 13:23-24

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- “Then one said to Him, ‘Lord, are there few who are saved?’ And He said to them, 24 ‘Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.’”

But Didn't Jesus Say Seekers Would Find?

- Matt. 7:7-8, 13-14 - "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened... 13 Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

THE MEANING... Of the Question

- Began with a mistaken premise - Jews only will be saved
- Began with a wrong motive - satisfy curiosity over a Jewish philosophical issue
- Began with the wrong spirit - casually treated a grave subject that mandates fear

THE MEANING... Of the Answer

- There are far more important matters for us to consider than how many people will be saved in the end.
- The question of greatest importance is: “Will I be among them?”
- There will be those who seek to be saved, but will not be able to.

What Causes One To Be Lost Even Though He Desires To Be Saved?

■ Accepting another authority

- Matt. 28:18 - “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”
- John 16:13-15 - “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.”

What Causes One To Be Lost Even Though He Desires To Be Saved?

- Accepting another authority
 - Gal. 1:6-9 - “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”
- There is no authority in another person, preacher, parent, friend, organization, or philosophy.

What Causes One To Be Lost Even Though He Desires To Be Saved?

- Love of others

- Luke 16:27-28 - "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, 28 for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'"

What Causes One To Be Lost Even Though He Desires To Be Saved?

- Pride and arrogance

- 2Tim. 4:3-4 - “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”

What Causes One To Be Lost Even Though He Desires To Be Saved?

■ Ignorance

- Acts 17:27 - "So that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us."
- Acts 17:30 - "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent."
- Rom. 10:14, 17 - "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

“Many Will Seek to Enter the Kingdom, And Will Not Be Able”

- It is unfortunate that anyone should be lost; God's desire is that no one should.
 - 2Peter 3:9 - “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

“Many Will Seek to Enter the Kingdom, And Will Not Be Able”

- Unfortunately, even though there are many who seek to enter in, some will fail for the following reasons:
 - They accepted another authority than the doctrine of Christ
 - They love someone too much to displease them by obeying the gospel
 - They believe they know more than God revealed in His word
 - They simply do not know what they must do