

**A Declaration of Those Things Which Are
Most Surely Believed Among Us
An Expository Study of The Gospel According to Luke
Chapter 13- Luke 13:22-30
251- Are There Just a Few Who are Being Saved? Part 3**

August 17, 2014

Luke 13:22-30

22 And He was passing through from one city and village to another, teaching, and proceeding on His way to Jerusalem.

23 And someone said to Him, "Lord, are there *just* a few who are being saved?" And He said to them,

24 "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

25 Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, 'Lord, open up to us!' then He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.'

26 Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets';

27 and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.'

28 In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out.

29 And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline *at the table* in the kingdom of God.

30 And behold, *some* are last who will be first and *some* are first who will be last."

To the Glory of God

The overriding Purpose of God in creating the Universe and in creating people to be saved in that Universe is so that by saving them-

they will know God and love God and enjoy God forever. That is the only reason why we exist, and that is the only reason why the earth spins on its axis, and that is the only reason why we breathe air- so that we will come to know God, and as we come to know more about Him- that knowledge will cause us to be in awe of God and it will cause us to wonder after Him and that will cause us to reverentially respect Him, and that awe and that admiration and that respect will produce in us a very deep and abiding Love for God, and this love will produce within us the fullness of our Joy so that we will enjoy God forever.

And the Alabama English way of saying this is that the overriding Purpose of God in creating the Universe and by creating people to be saved *in* the Universe is that we will engage in genuine "Spirit and Truth Worship" of the one, true, and living God. You see, God means to be worshipped and *true* worship- *genuine* worship can only come about through a right and correct knowledge of God, and it can only come about as result of a deep and abiding love for God, and it can only come about as a result of an enjoyment of God, or else that worship is simply contrived and coerced.

But our problem as human beings is that we are entirely separated from God, and our hearts are enamored with the Creation but we are not normally or naturally enamored with the Creator, and we love what is made but we do not normally or naturally love the Maker, and we enjoy what our thoughts have invented and what our hands have made- but we do not normally or naturally enjoy God.

And that separation, that inability and unwillingness to be enamored with God, and that inability and that unwillingness to love and enjoy God is called "Sin". And sin is wrong because sin dishonors God and sin is a barrier that prohibits and ruins genuine worship. And, therefore- the true and genuine worship of God is non-existent among those who are lost. And so evangelism exists because worship does not exist. Preaching the Gospel to the lost exists because the lost do not love God and they do not worship Him.

And so if God is going to be worshipped at all, if God is going to be known and loved and enjoyed at all- that barrier of sin must be removed, it must be torn down, it must be eliminated, it must be removed, and since we are *unable* to remove it, since part of what it means to be human is that we are both *unwilling* and *unable* to tear down this barrier of sin so that we might worship God in Spirit and in

Truth- God has taken it upon Himself to remove this barrier of Sin from us- and He did that- at great cost to Himself.

Because the only way that God can remove that barrier of sin is to do it- all by Himself. God must take on human flesh and condescend into Humanity and become one of us. God- all by Himself- must place all of our sin on Himself- while at the same time remaining perfectly sinless Himself, and by pouring out the Just Wrath against our sins on Himself and by physically dying with all those sins on Him. And God must then raise Himself from the dead while leaving those sins behind, and then God must ascend back into Heaven to sit in Majesty on High- while constantly interceding to Himself on our behalf.

So God used Himself in all three of His Persons, and God the Father designed the Plan of Salvation, and God the Son took on flesh and was born of a virgin, and through the Power of God the Holy Spirit- God the Son lived a sinless Life for 33-1/2 years by being perfectly obedient to God the Father and by being perfectly led by God the Holy Spirit in thought, word, and deed 24 hours every day and seven days every week, and God the Father took all of our sins and laid them upon God the Son, and God the Son obeyed His Father's Will and died as a spotless Lamb- with all of our sins upon Him as God the Father poured out all His Wrath against our sins on God the Son and on the third day- God the Father raised God the Son from the dead by His Glory, and after 40 more days- God the Father took God the Son into Heaven and after God the Son was re-united with God the Father they sent God the Holy Spirit to dwell inside of us forever, and God the Holy Spirit moved upon men to write down the New Testament.

So way before God the Father ever made the world through God the Son- in the Power of God the Holy Spirit- the Father decided to "set His Love" upon some of the unworthy sinners who occupy planet Earth, and God the Father chose to save them based on nothing other than He loved them, and The Father did this before these people were born and before they did anything "good" or "bad".

And this sovereign *setting* of God's Love on unworthy sinners based on nothing other than that God loved them, this sovereign choosing of people before they were born and before they did anything "good" or "bad" is called "Sovereign Election".

And so now God the Holy Spirit goes out into this fallen sinful world to find all of those who have been "chosen" or "elected" by God.

And when He comes to these people- God the Spirit goes inside them- without them *asking* Him to, and without them *wanting* Him to, and without them *cooperating* with Him, and God the Holy Spirit sovereignly- all by Himself- does the Work that needs to be done in order to *cause* these people to come to Jesus. So in that sense- God the Holy Spirit *drags* these people to Jesus for Salvation.

And Jesus manifests His great Love for His Father by receiving every single one of these people and by not rejecting *any* of them- no matter how bad or how sinful they have been. And with the new eyes that God has sovereignly given them and with the new ears that God has sovereignly given them and with the new heart that God has sovereignly given them- these unworthy sinners will hear the glorious Gospel and they will believe the Gospel and they will be convicted of their sins and they will despise their sins and they will repent of their sins and they will trust in Jesus Personally and in His finished Work and God will save these wicked and very evil people to the uttermost.

And the Love of God- that God sovereignly set upon these people before He made the stars- will miraculously and supernaturally and eternally change these people, and they will know God and they will love God and they will enjoy God forever. In other words- these people- who were the most unlikely of all the people on earth- have been chosen by God to have the distinct honor and the high privilege of being able to worship the one, true, and living God in Spirit and in Truth, and God will be glorified *by* these people and *in* these people and *through* these people *more* than God is glorified by a waterfall or a supernova or a sub-atomic particle.

And, my dear friends- that is the only reason why you love God today, and that is the only reason why you hope in God's Promises, and that is the only reason why you gladly serve God and why you are willing to sacrifice for His Name and why you are willing to suffer for His Glory and why you are willing to die for the Lord Jesus Christ- because God chose you and because God elected you to Salvation and because God set His Love upon you and sovereignly changed you, and because God now has given you both the will and the power, both the desire and the ability to know God and to love God and to enjoy God forever.

And that makes Salvation to be all of God and none of Man and that means that God is the only One Who can rightly take credit and

receive all the Glory for our Salvation- precisely because God Almighty did all the Work in all three of His Persons.

So God did all the Work and God gets all the Glory and we receive all the benefit, and the only thing that we contributed to our own Salvation was the sin that God had to forgive us for.

And those of you that at one time took comfort in your wealth or in your possessions or in the deeds of your hands or in your accomplishments or by getting high or in getting drunk or in human power or in sex or in money now join in with the psalmist who said in **Psalms 63:3:**

Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise You.

In other words- the *cause* or the *genesis* of *why* the psalmist said that his lips praised God was not because he was a nice guy, but was because God's Lovingkindness was better than life itself.

Now this is the third installment of this small mini-series on the verses that Brother Andy just read to you. And if you have trouble comprehending what I'm talking about this morning- please avail yourself of the first two messages- and then ask questions. I will be happy to talk with you at great length about any of these things because I want you to understand them, and I want you to become familiar with the deep and profound Truths of God's Word so that you will be prepared when these Truths will mean everything to you during the trials of life. So I will be happy to answer any question that you might have about this.

Now right off the bat- let me say that what Brother Andy just read to you is part of the infallible Word of the living God, and that makes these Words to be "true" and that makes them reliable and that causes us to have to not only agree that they are true- but we must learn to love these Words as much as we love the other parts of the Bible that are not as deep and not as troubling as this Passage is for so many people.

And I have three goals in mind this morning that I pray to accomplish in this mini-series about Sovereign Election. I want you to walk away from here being amazed at three things:

1. That Sovereign Election is Biblical and True

2. That not only did God sovereignly choose people to be saved from before the foundation of the world- it was the very *best thing* that He could do
3. Sovereign Election is the *basis* by which our Salvation is eternal and certain

Now in the previous Sermons- we have discovered that Sovereign Election is not something that is new to the world, or even something that came about in the New Testament with the advent of Jesus' earthly Ministry- but that Sovereign Election is the way in which God has *always* moved upon unworthy sinners to save them – even in the OT with the Jews.

So let me be crystal clear about what I am saying here. All lost people are saved in the very same way- by hearing and believing the Gospel and by repenting of their sins and by trusting in Jesus Personally and in His finished Work. We are not saved by works or by our religious deeds or by partaking of the Sacraments or by being Baptized or by speaking in tongues or by helping poor people or by doing nice things or by buying the Church a new piano or by flying airplanes through buildings.

The Bible says in **Ephesians 2** that lost people are saved "by" or "because" of Grace alone. In other words- the *catalyst* that *initiates* lost sinners coming to Jesus to be saved is not *internal*, but it is *external*- *it did not begin with us- it began with God*, it is not *human*- but it is *Divine*, it is not earthly- it is heavenly, and this catalyst is called "Grace".

And Grace is defined as "The Favor of God upon an individual that is unmerited", or that is not merited. In other words- there is nothing that we can "do" or "become" that will allow us to earn or "merit" God's Grace. And that tells us that Grace must be "given"- it cannot be "gotten".

And Grace is also defined as "The Special Treatment of God toward sinful people who do not deserve it". And that means that the Treatment of God toward those who are given Grace is *powerful* and *active* and *effective*, and it is *different* than the Treatment that God gives to others.

And Grace is defined as "The Love of God set upon those who have insulted the Glory of God by their glad and repeated transgressions

against Him". But there are two kinds of Grace that God gives to the world:

- A. Common Grace
- B. Saving Grace

"Common Grace" is that distribution of Divine Kindness that God gives to unworthy sinners that displays God's Favor and Special Treatment and Love in that it makes life here on this earth better and more appealing and less hurtful to human beings. So God graces some unworthy sinners with long life and healthy bodies, and God opens up the minds of other unworthy sinners to give them the ability to build and to create things that make life better for us, like bi-focals and air conditioning and antibiotics and bridges and blackened redfish and insulation.

And in keeping with this kind of Grace being totally undeserved on our part and totally unobligated on His Part – this Common Grace is not enjoyed by all the sinful people, and even among those to whom it is enjoyed- it is not enjoyed equally- but it is "common" in nature.

And then there is "Saving Grace"- the Favor and the Special Treatment and the Love of God that goes way beyond antibiotics and rubber tires and green grass, and actually saves the souls of the unworthy sinners to whom it is given.

So Saving Grace is the Omnipotent Power of God that is issued out to all of those who have been chosen by God to be saved that *overrides* their natural and normal tendency to run away from God and hide, it *overrides* their normal and natural inclination to try to do something to earn Salvation, and it *forces* its way into the individual who has been elected by God to be saved- while he is still lost and *before* he wants it and before he even asks for it or cooperates with it, and Saving Grace *supernaturally* gives that person- eyes to see, and it sovereignly gives that person ears to hear, and it sovereignly takes out of that person a stony heart that he received through the bloodline of his own natural father all the way back to Adam, and Saving Grace gives that person a heart of flesh, or in other words a heart that has the God-given ability to believe.

And Saving Grace is given *regardless* of the sinful condition of the individual, and it is given *regardless* of their ethnic or political or

economic status, and it is given *regardless* of his family or educational background, and this is done regardless of whether that individual wants it or desires it or asks for it or even appreciates it.

And this miracle, this supernatural manifestation of God's Power and Glory is called "the giving of life", or some call it "regeneration", while still others call it being "born again".

So the Goodness of God and the Favor of God and the Special Treatment of God and the Love of God shown to sinful people through Common Grace has the capacity to humble the elect while actually hardening the hearts of the non-elect. So from that standpoint- Common Grace turns into Saving Grace for the elect, while turning into eternal Damnation for the non-elect.

Now with all this in mind- we need to try to understand why this Jew asked Jesus this question here in verse 23, when he asked,

Lord, are there *just* a few who are being saved?

In the previous text- Jesus had just described the Kingdom of God in two different Parables. But *why* did Jesus use Parables? Why didn't Jesus use plain speech to describe the mysteries of God's Kingdom? Well, to find out- please turn with me to **Matthew 13**- which is the sister Passage of **Luke 13**- over in **Matthew 13:10**- and read with me:

Matthew 13:10-17

10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

11 Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

12 "For whoever has, to him *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.

13 Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

14 In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;

15 FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED

THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.'

16 But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.

17 For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.

So Jesus says right here that the *reason* why He spoke to the people in Parables was so that *not* everybody would understand. Let me say that again. I am telling you that the Bible that you have opened on your lap right now clearly says that the reason why Jesus spoke to the people in Parables and not in plain speech was so that not everybody would understand. What? Look closely again at what Jesus said in **Matthew 13:11**:

Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

Now why would God do that? Isn't it *always* God's Will that everybody see and hear and believe and repent and be saved? Why would God purposely not want everybody to see and hear? Look at the answer found in verses 13-15:

13 Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

14 In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;

15 FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.'

Now by quoting the OT Prophet Isaiah- Jesus is saying that this is *always* the way it was. That God *always* worked like that. So Jesus

says that what He is doing and saying here in **Luke 13** is the way that God has *always* moved toward people — God has chosen to save some but not all. This is Sovereign Election.

Now if you are a thinking human being- you should have a lot of questions right about now. What I have preached so far should have raised a number of questions in your mind- and that is good. I want you to ask them and I want to answer every single one of them- Biblically- straight from God's Word- and I promise to do that.

It is my goal in this Church that you know *what* you believe and *why* you believe it. And so I challenge you to think. We provide teachings and recommend books and tapes for you to read and listen to, and we provide tools in this Church that are designed to help you in formulating a Biblical mindset, and we offer a time of Questions and Answers every single month so you can ask questions and get Biblical answers, and we explore fundamental Christianity through the Catechism we are going through, and we get a Biblical perspective of things by reading the Puritans every month, and we get our nose in the Book through our Bible reading plan.

We must understand that Truth doesn't fear questions and Truth doesn't fear your doubts or your opposition. You can reject the Truth and you can throw it away and you can neglect it- but you cannot change it. Truth is true. It was true yesterday, it is true today, and it will be true tomorrow. And so while you can reject the Truth- you cannot defeat the Truth *Biblically*. The Truth will defeat you, it will humble you, and it will change your life. So I beg you to fall upon the Rock today and be broken so that the Rock doesn't have to fall on you and ground you into powder.

Now back over in **Luke 13**- Jesus basically answers this man's question about who and how many people are going to be saved with a very important statement in the next seven verses- read them with me again:

Luke 13:24-30

24 "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

25 Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, 'Lord, open up to us!' then He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.'

26 Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets';

27 and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.'

28 In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out.

29 And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline *at the table* in the kingdom of God.

30 And behold, *some* are last who will be first and *some* are first who will be last."

Now this is a very powerful Statement by our Lord and one that changes everything. And basically what Jesus is saying here is that God is going to now fulfill what He promised He would do from the very beginning when He was talking with Abraham in **Genesis 17**. Turn there with me- **Genesis 17**:

Genesis 17:5-7

5 "No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.

6 "I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you.

7 "I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.

You see, it was *always* God's Will to save some people out from every nation and tongue by Grace through Faith. And the only reason why God dealt exclusively with the Jews for a period of time was so that Jesus would be born in accord with the almost 400 prophecies about Him foretold in the OT.

And now that Jesus is alive on the earth- God is fulfilling His ancient Promise and He is moving past the Jew and past the Jewish nation and Grace is going to spill out to the nations of the world, and unworthy sinners out of every nation on earth will hear the Gospel and be saved- because just like the Jew- God has set His Love upon them from before the foundation of the world.

So this is dramatic and a radical departure from everything that the Jews had been taught their entire lives. You see, by the time Jesus was born in the 1st Century- the religion of the OT had been so perverted and so maligned that the average Jew had no idea of God's Plan or God's Will concerning them and the Messiah and the nations of the world and even Salvation itself.

Their understanding of Who the Messiah was and what He would do when He got here, and who was chosen by God and why, and what all this was about had been lost, and what had replaced the inspired Truth of the OT was a very cruel and hard man-made religion of demons that was completely apostate and that could not lead anyone to true Salvation.

And while Luke has shown us that there were several people who were raised up in this apostate religion of Judaism and had learned it their entire lives who could see and hear and believe and were saved like Zacharias and Elizabeth and the Shepherds in the field, and Anna and Simeon in the Temple, and Mary and Joseph, and the foreign kings who followed the star, and John Baptist and some of his disciples- all these people were saved in spite of the religion of the Jews and not because of it.

God had graced these elected souls with the ability to see and hear and believe and trust in Jesus in *opposition to* everything that they had been taught their entire lives because, as I said- there was nothing in the religion of the Jews or the pagan religions of the entire world that would lead anyone to true genuine Salvation.

So Jesus is telling this man that the time has come where everything is going to change and the very people who thought that God's entire Focus was on them and their one single nation would now understand that Salvation was not ever handed down through human birthright or through human blood, but solely through Sovereign Election. Now turn with me to see what the Apostle John wrote about this in **John 1:12&13:**

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,

13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Now the way to understand this in context with what John meant when he wrote this under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is that the miracle of the new birth does *not* come to people based on the three things that he talks about here:

- ✓ **Of blood**
- ✓ **Of the will of the flesh**
- ✓ **Of the will of man**

.. but John says that the new birth comes solely and only **“of God”**.

Now first of all- we must understand that the word **“of”** here has to do with “beginnings” or the “genesis” of something, or the “reason for” something to exist, or the “catalyst” that brought something about. The word **“of”** has to do with what *initiated* something- in this case- being spiritually born or being born again.

Now *why* did John use these three examples here to tell us what the new birth was *not* from? In other words- John uses three different examples to tell us what did *not* initiate the new birth; what the new birth did *not* originate from; what did *not* cause the new birth to come about. So why did he do this? Because this was the very foundation of the Jews’ understanding of Sovereign Election.

You see, the Jew absolutely believed in Grace, but- sadly, like many today- they had been taught their entire life that God’s Favor and God’s Special Treatment and God’s Love was poured out on them and them alone based on three things:

- ✓ **“Of blood”** or the Jews own natural, physical bloodline that they could trace all the way back to Father Abraham- to whom God gave the Promise
- ✓ **“Of the will of the flesh”** which is their own human decision to love and serve God based on the striving of their own physical capabilities
- ✓ **“Of the will of man”** or the natural decision of the husband to have a child to whom he would teach the Law of God and who would also inherit the physical land of Israel (Heaven).

The Apostle John makes it clear here that the new birth is *not* based on any of these three things that the Jew hung his hat on. But

John teaches that being born again is solely and only “**of God**” meaning the new birth originates, or is initiated by, or from God and His Sovereign Election alone- regardless of the other three factors.

John and all the Apostles taught clearly and repeatedly that God is free to choose to save whoever He desires to and it is that person who has been graced by God to see and to hear and to believe who will be saved- not simply because they are of the same nationality or same bloodline or the one who exercises so-called human free will.

The Scriptures proclaim that God Almighty is absolutely free to set His Love upon any of the unworthy sinners of the world and elect them for Salvation- without any regard to their natural bloodline or the decision of their intellect or the will of their natural father. But John says these unworthy sinners will be born “**of God**” meaning that they will be supernaturally graced with Favor and Special Treatment and Love that will empower them to believe and be saved.

So Jesus tells this man in **Luke 13:24**:

Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

Now this doesn't mean that Jesus is telling this man to try to earn his Salvation- but Jesus is simply saying the same thing that the Apostle Peter taught in **2Peter 1**- please go there with me.

2 Peter 1:2-11

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge,

6 and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness,

7 and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love.

8 For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins.

10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

So the way to prove that you are chosen is not by wearing a badge around your neck or by taking comfort that you are in a particular family or by knowing that your natural genealogy goes all the way back to Abraham or any of these fleshly manifestations, but your election is proved- or in other words- you make certain your calling and choosing by simply loving and serving God and by bearing the godly fruit that is the unmistakable proof that you have within you the Divine nature that you received by Grace through the new birth.

So it is not that you can prove that your natural bloodline goes all the way back to Abraham that shows that you are one of the people of God, but that you actually *do* what Abraham *did* that makes you his seed- that you believe God! Paul said in **Romans 4:3:**

For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

... and we believe God because God has graced us to do so. So Jesus then went through a series of examples to show this man and all of us here today that we cannot trust in anything; we cannot place our hope in anything other than the Lord Jesus Christ if we hope to be saved. Now look again at **Luke 13:25-27:**

25 Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, 'Lord, open up to us!' then He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.'

26 Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets';

27 and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; **DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.**'

Now here Jesus is quoting from **Psalm 119:115** to show that now that the head of the house is here- now that Jesus the Messiah has come- it is those who actually love and serve God who are allowed to enter in- not those who simply lay claim to being the children of God through bloodline. Those who insist on entering into Heaven without actually being born again are not known by God- they were never part of God's Family- even though they may well have been a Jew and even if their parents were indeed saved.

Now this is talking about the Jew in context here, but it can also be applied to the children of saved people today. Our children are *not* going to Heaven simply because we are. Our children don't have a leg up on Salvation over anybody else; they don't have special arrangement with God simply by virtue of the fact that they were born in our house.

We are commanded to raise up our children to love and serve God and to teach them the Word of God as they live under our roof. But if our children go to Heaven- they must hear and believe the Gospel themselves and they must be convicted of their sin and they must repent and they must trust in Jesus and in His finished work themselves. And if they try to get into Heaven by assuming that since Mom and Dad are saved that that automatically means that they are saved too- they will hear Jesus tell them:

... I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.

So our children must be born "**of God**" or they will perish along with the unbelieving Jews. And if they are born of God- they will bear godly fruit. And then to add insult to injury to the Jew who was trusting in His pedigree- Jesus went even further to say in **Luke 13:28**:

In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out.

... again simply emphasizing that without the supernatural miracle of the new birth- the Jew who was a direct descendent of Abraham had no hope.

But then Jesus put forth what was perhaps the single most insulting statement to this Jew about the Will of God in saving the Gentile world in the next two verses when He said:

29 And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline *at the table* in the kingdom of God.

30 And behold, *some* are last who will be first and *some* are first who will be last."

Now "**they**" is the Gentile world, and the fact that these Gentiles "**come from east and west and from north and south**" shows that God has set His Love upon them as well as the Jew, and the fact that they "**recline *at the table* in the kingdom of God**" shows that they are at home with God; they belong there- meaning that they are at home in the Family of God.

Now this was tantamount to blasphemy to this Jew. To think that God would even look at a pagan Gentile much less set His Love upon him and save him and bring him into the Kingdom of God was horrific to the average Jew. And to emphasize it even further- Jesus drives the stake in the heart when the Lord said,

And behold, *some* are last who will be first and *some* are first who will be last.

In other words- you Jews who think that you have a lock on God's Love will find yourselves thrust out and at the back of the line because even though you lay claim to being chosen- you do not know Me, you do not love Me, and you do not enjoy Me. And the Gentiles who do not have history of Me moving among them will be put at the front of the line and they will find acceptance of My Altar.

So, of course the Jews hated Jesus because of what he said here and their animosity against Him only grew stronger- the more He spoke. And we must understand that Jesus understood this and yet he continued on saying these insulting things to the Jews. And so we can only come to the conclusion that Jesus meant to insult them and he

meant to draw a clear distinction between the truly chosen person and the fake because He did this so often.

Now that is the Jew and we could all go home now with the idea of how silly the Jew must have been to assume that they were chosen by God simply because their natural bloodline went all the way back to Abraham. And that God is now going to save some of the Gentiles as well as some of the Jews through the glorious means of Sovereign Election. And we could just leave it at that.

But there is another warning that we need to hear this morning from this Passage because we need to take heed to ourselves that we are not simply replacing the Jews in this story. We need to make sure that we are not sitting in our pomp and circumstance- assuming that because we live in a nation that has heard the Gospel and that because we are trying real hard to cause our nation to come back to God and that because we are trusting in some prayer that we prayed or some act that we performed or the fact that we go to Church or the fact that we have been raised in a Christian home that that automatically means that we are the chosen of God- because it doesn't.

We must understand what John said and make certain that we have been born **“of God”** and that our new birth was not the result of an act of our own will or an act of our parents will or an act of our own flesh. And we need to do what Peter said and **“make certain our calling and choosing”** by bearing godly fruit. And we need to guard our hearts against being hardened with pride over Sovereign Election instead of that glorious Truth humbling us and making us grateful and causing us to love and enjoy obeying God rather than simply bragging about knowing Him.

We must remember that true love *does* things and not simply *believes* things. So we are saved by what we believe, but what we believe puts us into a position of joyfully abandoning ourselves to this radical Love of Jesus Christ in serving and following and obeying what Jesus said- all to the Glory of God.

Amen. Let's pray.