

**Sermon ~ Sunday, March 7, 2021**

**Text: Luke 13: 24** “Strive to enter at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.”

**Title: “Take the Road Less Traveled”**

Within one year (March 2020 and March 2021) we have witnessed over 500,000, individuals, not just dying, but dying from one plague or pandemic. Where were they on this *road* of life? Had they come to a fork and made the wrong turn? On this long and winding *road*, were they clear of the fact, “we cannot travel both and be one traveler?” None the less, where did the *road* they traveled, end?

With *purpose*, this morning message, is from Luke’s account of **The Gospel of JESUS CHRIST!** Luke is “**The Gospel** for Man” or “**The Gospel** for Gentiles, showing **GOD** is interested in all men everywhere, not just the Jews.

Luke is “**The Gospel** of Individuals.” **JESUS** is deeply interested in us individually. Luke tells of Zechariah and Elizabeth, the parents of John the Baptist; of Mary and Martha; of Zacchaeus; of Cleopas and his companion as they walked the Emmaus road; of the woman who anointed **JESUS’** feet in the house of Simon the Pharisee.

Luke is “**The Gospel** of Salvation.” He uses the words “salvation” and “**SAVIOR**” more times than the other **Gospel** writers.

Luke is “**The Gospel** of the Outcasts and *Sinners*.” He tells of the feast Matthew held for tax collectors and *sinners*; of tax collectors and *sinners* drawing near to hear **JESUS**; Luke alone tells of the Prodigal son. All *sinners*.

In our text, “**JESUS**, as **HE** went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem, one asked **HIM, LORD**, who are *saved*? Will many be *saved*? **JESUS** answers these questions, not to *satisfy* curiosity. But to *challenge* us, so we may be sure, we are *saved*.

From the text, the *destination*—**CHRIST** was heading to Jerusalem for the crucifixion on Calvary (to *die*, for the *sinner*; to be *buried* with the *sinner’s* guilt of *sin* and to *raise*, leaving *sin’s* bondage and enslavement in the grave, that the *sinner* become the *saint*, the *sanctified* and *glorified* child of **GOD**). **JESUS** was keeping a Divine *schedule*. And *now*, **JESUS** is on **HIS** Divine *schedule*, journeying back, for travelers on the Highway to Heaven.

From the text, the *path* of Salvation— “Are there few that be *saved*?” **JESUS** answered, YES! (Matthew 7: 14, “...few there be...” Most people will go to Hell not to Heaven.

From the text, the *fiat*, decree— “*Strive* to enter in at the strait gate.” *Strive* means to agonize. NOT suggesting that “*works*” or “*merit*” get us Salvation but emphasizes “one should put on Salvation”; show that they are *Saved*; Be *saved*, because they are *saved*. Salvation must be the most important matter in our life.

From the text, the *failure* in Salvation— “Many . . . will *seek* to enter in, and shall not be able.” Many are not *saved* because they want to enter on their own terms instead of **GOD’S** terms, or they want to enter on the basis of “*good works*,” or they think they will enter because **GOD is Love**. **JESUS** declares,

**“Take the Road Less Traveled”**

## Why?

1. JESUS said, the Gate is most desirable to enter. "...for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in..." Surely, "many" would not seek to enter *if* they were not convinced of the desirableness of passing through it. The very fact that so many, although they fail, will at least seek to enter, proves that there is desire, a reason, and a motive why *all* should aim to enter.

\*This Gate—that is, **CHRIST**—is the most desirable for us to pass through, *because it is the gate of "the City of Refuge."* Cities of Refuge (in the Bible: Golan, Ramoth, Bosor, Kedesh, Shechem and Hebron) were appointed by GOD, for the *guilty* of crime, that when they were pursued by the avenger of blood, they might pass the Gate and be secure within the sanctuary or City.

**The Gospel of JESUS CHRIST** is a *refuge* for those who are guilty; who have broken the Law of **GOD, WHOM** vengeance is pursuing, for "the wages of sin is death", unless they fly to **CHRIST** and find shelter in **HIM**.

\* This Gate—that is, **CHRIST**— is the most desirable *because it is a home.* **JESUS** is the *home* of **HIS** people's heart. We are at rest when we get to **CHRIST**. We have all we want and all we need when we have **JESUS**. Blessedness and happiness are the portion of the **CHRISTIAN** in this life while we are at home with **JESUS**. We once were homeless, not because **GOD** wanted us out, we left for the far country, found ourselves in a hog's pin, on the outside, but thanks be to **GOD**, we went *home*... we had a *home* to go to—**JESUS!**

\* This Gate—that is, **CHRIST**— is the most desirable *because it leads to Paradise.* There was one *Gate of Paradise* through which our father—Adam, and our mother—Eve, went weeping as they left *The Garden* all behind them, to wander into the desert world. See the *Cherubim* behind them and the flaming sword bidding them begone, for *Paradise* was (is) no place for *sinners*? Mankind has been wandering up and down the *roads* of life seeking the *Gate of Paradise*. There is only one—**The Cross of Calvary!** **JESUS** said, "Verily, verily I say unto you, **I AM The Way, The Truth and The Life**, no man cometh unto **The FATHER** but by **ME**."

2. JESUS said, "there is a Crowd of People who will seek to enter and will not be able."

Who are they? There is a difference between the "*Strivers ... and the Seekers.*"

\*Those who look at the Gate and object that the Lintel or *top is too low, to stoop and enter in.* There is no believing in **JESUS** with a proud heart. He that trusts **CHRIST** must feel himself to be *guilty* and acknowledge it. He never will savingly believe till he has been thoroughly convinced of *sin*. But many say, "I will never stoop to that. Unless I have something to *do* in the work, and share some of the *merit*, I cannot enter."

\*Some are unable to enter *because the pride of life* will not let them. The greatest Prince, Pope, Preacher, that ever live *must* trust **JESUS** as the meanest peasant does.

\*Some are unable to enter because *they carry contraband goods with them.* Travel to in the airport or crossing the boundaries, you have to go through Customs... where they check you or your baggage. Contraband goods cannot be taken in. So, at the Gate of Mercy—which is **CHRIST**—no man can be saved if he desires to keep his *sins*. He must give up every false way. "The fool," said to the Doctor, "make me well, but I'd like to keep my *fever*." "No, says the Doctor, "how can you be well while you keep the *fever*?" How can a man be saved *from* his *sins* while he clings to his *sins*? What is Salvation but to be delivered "from" *sin*? *Sin*-lovers may seek to be saved, but they shall not be able, while they "hug" their *sins*, they cannot have **CHRIST**.

\*Not a few are unable to enter in because *they want to postpone the matter until tomorrow*. Procrastinators are among the most *hopeless* of people. He that has “tomorrow” quivering on his lips is never likely to have **GRACE** reigning in his heart.

\**Others* and these are in the worst plight of all, *think that they are in*, and that they have entered. They *mistake the outside* of the Gate *for the inside*.

A strange mistake to fall into, but many do thus delude themselves.

3. **JESUS** is saying, as **I Live**, you *must* turn or burn, you must either *repent* or be ruined forever. May **GOD** give you **WISDOM** to choose the better part!

It's a Highway to heaven, none can walk up there but the pure in heart.

It's a Highway to Heaven, walkin' up **The KING'S Highway**.

If you're not walkin' start while I'm talkin', Walkin' up **The KING'S Highway**.

**CHRIST** walks beside you, Angels will guide you when you're walkin' up **The KING'S Highway**.

My way gets brighter, my load gets lighter walkin' up **The KING'S Highway**.

And you'll be confessing that there is a blessing when you're walking up **The KING'S Highway**.

It's a Highway, it's a Highway, it's a Highway up to Heaven,

None can walk up there but the pure in heart.

It's a Highway, it's a Highway,

It's a Highway up to Heaven.

I'm walkin' up **The KING'S Highway!**

**“Take the Road Less Traveled”**