

## Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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Luke 13:22-30

August 25, 2019

### Self-assured is disastrous. Christ-confident is divine!

- What points in today's Gospel - stood out - left a lasting impression?
  - ♦
  - ♦
  - ♦
  - ♦
- Note: "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?"
  - ♦ Jesus didn't offer a % - 1%, 5%, 10%. He addressed the real issue.
  - ♦ The 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Lessons shine a light on the subtle parts of the Gospel.
  - ♦ 1<sup>st</sup>: God would raise up his people from all over the world
  - ♦ 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sinai was glorious, but nothing like Zion, heavenly Jerusalem
  - ♦ These tug & expose the common thread here - the *you* passages:
    - <sup>25</sup> *Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.'*“
    - *But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'*“  
<sup>26</sup> *"Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'*
    - <sup>28</sup> *...when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.*
  - ♦ Those who asked the question assumed they were *first*, saved of course
    - Because of their heritage as *God's people*.
    - Because they heard, spent time with, and knew **about Jesus**.
      - That doesn't count. Jesus doesn't know them as his own people!
    - Theirs was **self-assurance** based on their heritage, race, tradition.
  - The saved rely on Jesus, *the narrow door, the sheep gate* John 10
    - ♦ Jesus is the Way - the One Way - the Only Way to God.
    - ♦ Today's 3 Lessons put the spotlight on this truth:

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- ❖ The **false faith** that is really **self-assurance**
  - Scripture is full of people with *faith* that their heritage saved them
  - *Chosen people* - not chosen because they're better, but God is gracious.
    - ♦ Of all people, called to hold to the word, trust him alone as their God
    - ♦ Abraham's relationship to God - reliance totally on God as his God.
    - ♦ Trusting bloodline, tradition, ritual, culture = false god, false faith
      - *We can do whatever we want. God has to take us. We're special.*

- Foolish Self-assurance didn't end with Pentecost
  - ♦ Relying on the moment *you accepted Jesus*... = **self-assured**
  - ♦ Thinking you're OK- you're instructed & confirmed = **self-assured**
  - ♦ *I belong to a church - a conservative church* = **self-assured**
  - ♦ *I know Jesus. I know lots of stories about Jesus* = **self-assured**
    - Same as: *'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'*
    - Jesus' response: *'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'* - Self-righteous = unrighteous
  - ♦ It's **not**: Do you **know about** Jesus?
    - Rather, it's: Does Jesus **know you** as one of his?
    - As one who daily lives in Jesus, his forgiveness, and his word
    - Who relies on Jesus for protection - direction - understanding
    - Whose life, love, and giving demonstrate a devotion to your Savior
    - Living in dialog: listening to Jesus' word - talking to him in prayer
    - Living for the *narrow door* brings all of life in to perspective
      - *Make every effort* = strain, engage in the fight/contest
- ❖ **Christ-confidence** knows he has prepared a seat at the banquet for me!
  - It's clear: There's no room for treating eternity casually!
    - ♦ The knocking, pleading, weeping, gnashing of teeth - forever
      - Especially knowing Jesus invited me to the banquet
    - ♦ *...the worms that eat them will not die, the fire that burns them will not be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind.* Isaiah 66:24
  - This is **not** a scare tactic. It's telling the truth before it's too late.
  - How can I be sure? Trust/focus solely on Christ Jesus. He did it all!
    - ♦ The Father has been preparing his house for his people from eternity!
    - ♦ Jesus is the narrow door. He alone paid for all sin & rose to give life!
    - ♦ Your invitation/place at the table is a free gift - not dependent on you.
    - ♦ Do you know Christ did it all for you? You have Christ-confidence!
  - A life of Christ-confidence offers a taste of what God has prepared.
    - ♦ New life at work in you - the Living Water flowing into eternity.
    - ♦ The Bread of Life. Resurrection power at work in the Baptized.
      - **Not** that *I got baptized*. - **But** Christ baptized me: raised & claimed.
    - ♦ Communion with Christ - physical and personal in the Lord's Supper
    - ♦ **Not**: Do I rely enough on Christ?!
    - ♦ **Rather**: Do I know Christ is more than enough? Sigh and say, YES!
      - I strive, because I can't get enough of him. I long to be with him.

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