



## WEEKLY STUDY

### ***The Hard Way Is Worth It Mindset - Week Five***

We can learn some important things about Jesus by looking at the mindset he had, especially as he approached the culmination of his story on earth. Jesus offered grace and mercy, healing, and forgiveness everywhere he went, but as people began to consider the cost of following him, it became clear that the way is narrow. Jesus is the Way, and Jesus is the narrow gate through which we have access to a full, everlasting life with God. The key is our confession that Jesus is Lord. Read the passage each day this week. Consider how your times of study and prayer help you to stay focused on Jesus.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below.. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

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## DAILY STUDY

### **MONDAY: LUKE 13.22-30 (ESV)**

*He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup> And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, <sup>24</sup> "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup> When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' <sup>26</sup> Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' <sup>27</sup> But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' <sup>28</sup> 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 you yourselves cast out. <sup>29</sup> And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at the table in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup> And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."*

- The question asked of Jesus (Lord, will those who are saved be few?) was a question of *quantity*. But notice how Jesus replied—he replied by highlighting the *way of salvation*. The quantity is God’s work, our concern is to strive to go through the narrow door. It’s narrow but it’s open. It’s open but it’s hard. It’s hard but it’s worth it. Where do you picture yourself in the scene that Jesus paints? Are you traveling down the narrow way? Are you knocking on a door that seems to be closed? Are you waiting to walk through the open door?
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- **Prayer Prompt: You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. (Psalm 16.11)**
- *God, you have revealed the path of life by sending Jesus into the world. Give me courage to follow down the hard way. Amen.*

#### **TUESDAY: LUKE 13.22-30 (ESV)**

- Jesus is projecting a future when the door will be closed. That leads us to ask, “When?” or “How?” But Jesus is giving a sense of urgency. We won’t have to worry about those questions if we go through the door (Jesus) now. If we invite everyone to enter through Christ, it won’t matter *when* or *how*. Why do you think Jesus gave this warning about a door that will one day be closed?
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- **Prayer Prompt: ‘This is what the LORD says: See, I am setting before you the way of life and the way of death. (Jeremiah 21.8)**
- *Lord, today I choose the way of life. Tomorrow I will choose the way of life. On my last day, I will choose the way of life. Amen.*

#### **WEDNESDAY: LUKE 13.22-30 (ESV)**

- People from all over the world will come and recline at the table. It won’t always be the people we’d expect. Some who are last will be first! The table is an image of a banquet, celebration, and community. It’s an image of familiarity, or family. How will you remain mindful of Jesus’ presence at the Thanksgiving table this year?

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- **Prayer Prompt: “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” (Matthew 20.16, NIV)**
  - *God, I admit that I often prioritize things differently than you do. You see me for who I am and who I can be. You see my neighbor with the same eyes. Count me among the last and be present at the table. Amen.*

#### **THURSDAY: LUKE 13.22-30 (ESV)**

- Pastor Gary pointed out that a person can “hang out” with Jesus without entering into the narrow door—the hard way. He meant that we can do all of the churchy things and not truly follow Jesus. We go to worship. We stand and sing. We pack boxes of Thanksgiving meals. How can you know whether you are just hanging out with Jesus or following him down the difficult path of discipleship?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”(John 14.6-7)**
- *Jesus, keep shining your light on the path of righteousness. Though it is difficult and the way is narrow, I look forward to life beyond the door of faith. Amen.*

#### **FRIDAY: LUKE 13.22-30 (ESV)**

- We sign up for all kinds of things. Some commitments we keep and others we let slide over time. Following Jesus begins with confessing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Confession is the key to an expansive life in Jesus. Once we enter the door (which feels restrictive), we will find that life on the other side of the door is expansive. It’s an open space where we can experience and share the love of God. Pastor Gary shared several images of open spaces beyond narrow doors. How do you picture the expansive place that faith in Jesus ushers you into?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.(Proverbs 3.6)**
  - *God, I confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. I put my trust in him as I walk this road of discipleship. Amen.*

### **SATURDAY: LUKE 13.22-30 (ESV)**

- The words of the master of the house in verse 27 sound very harsh. To even imagine God telling you that you are a stranger to him is jarring. But these words have a kindness behind them as they serve to wake us up to the eternal importance of accepting Jesus' invitation to come through the narrow door. The hard way is worth it! Record your reflections on this invitation.
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- **Prayer Prompt: Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12.2)**
- *God, renew and restore my mind and my heart. Reveal your good, pleasing, and perfect will. Amen.*

### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

Pastor Gary shared a hymn that he wakes up to in the morning.

*Woke up this morning; with my mind, stayed on Jesus.  
Woke up this morning; with my mind, stayed on Jesus.  
Woke up this morning; with my mind, stayed on Jesus.  
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.*

- What is typically the first thing on your mind when you wake up in the morning?
- What are signs that your mind is made on Jesus?
- What does it mean to share the mindset of Jesus?