

ARE THEY FEW THAT ARE SAVED

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INTRODUCTION

- A. **TEXT:** *"And one said unto him, Lord, are they few that are saved?"* v. 23
- B. **THE SETTING:**
1. This is in response to the teachings of Jesus.
 2. Seems to be a surprise to His audience.
- C. THE ATTITUDE OF THE JEWS.
1. The orthodox answer was that all Jews - except of course, for gross sinners and heretics - would find entry into the kingdom God.
 2. Is this not the attitude of the "Christian" world today.
- D. WE NEED TO CONSIDER JESUS' ANSWER.
1. He tells us that the door is going to be closed to some.
 2. That there will be those who think they are first that will be last, last first.
 - a. Example:
 - b. Jews left out...
 - c. Gentiles brought in.
 3. Thus the Question... *"Are they few that are saved?"*
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JEWS AND THE RICH

- A. *And Jesus said unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, It is hard for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And when the disciples heard it, they were astonished exceedingly, saying, Who then can be saved?"* (Matt. 19:23-25)
1. Amazed that it would be difficult for the rich.
 2. If not the rich saved....then who?
- B. Jewish attitude toward wealth and righteousness.
1. Perhaps seen in the story of Job.
 2. Friends were convinced that his afflictions were the result of sin.
 3. Opposite view - Rich were blessed with wealth because they were good.
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WORLD TODAY

- A. THAT GOD IS LOVE....THEREFORE NONE - EXCEPT THE VERY WICKED WILL BE LOST.
1. Salvation for the morally good...even the non religious.
 - a. They do good.

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- b. Treat people with consideration.
 - c. Never do anything that is terrible bad.
 - 2. Salvation for those who make any effort at all.
 - a. Minimal religious.
 - b. Worship on holidays, etc.
 - c. Basic belief in God.
 - 3. Self-righteousness of the Pharisees.
 - a. Has nothing on modern man.
 - b. I'm doing all right...I'll be o.k.
 - B. QUESTION THE EXISTENCE OF HELL.
 - 1. Is there a Hell?
 - 2. How can - could man be punished eternally.
 - 3. This is just a scare tactic.
 - 4. Again – only the Devil and the really, really bad will be lost!!
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JESUS SAID...

- A. *“Enter ye in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby. For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it.”* (Matt. 7:13,14).
 - 1. Broad way.....leads where?
 - 2. Narrow way.....Leads where?
 - B. FEW ARE THEY THAT FIND IT.
 - 1. Few as opposed to many.
 - 2. It is not the popular choice of man.
 - C. IT IS HARD - DIFFICULT - STRAIT.
 - 1. This implies, teaches that effort - much effort must be used to enter and follow the way to heaven.
 - 2. God requires that we Do His Will.
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HOW HARD?

- A. JESUS TELLS US TO COUNT THE COST.
 - 1. Story of man who would build a tower.
 - 2. Of a king who considers battle or war.
 - 3. Found in Luke 14:25-32.
- B. HOW NARROW? (John 14:1-6)
 - 1. Jesus is the Way.....THE ONLY WAY.

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2. Within its self this is not hard.....
3. BUT it is hard for some to accept this “limited” way.

C. JESUS’ INVITATION.

1. *“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”* (Matt. 11:28-30).
 2. Again...the way, within itself is not hard.
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WHY HARD FOR MAN

A. BECAUSE MAN FIGHTS AGAINST THE TEACHING.

1. God’s way is too strait. Straight.
2. Want an easy way.

B. CONFUSION THAT HAS BEEN INTRODUCED BY MAN.

1. In the labyrinth of teachings that have been given by man it is easy for one to lose his way!
2. Problem is not in what God says...but it what man thinks God should have said.

C. PEACE...PEACE...WHEN THERE IS NO PEACE!!

1. How many times do we read this in Old Testament?
 2. How many times were the people destroyed when they thought they had Peace?
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WHO WILL....

A. BE LOST???

B. BE SAVED??

C. LET GOD GIVE THE ANSWER....

1. Matt. 7:21 *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that **doeth the will**, of my Father who is in heaven.”*
2. Luke 13:3; *“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all in like manner perish.”*
3. II Thess. 1:7-9;.....*rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus;”*

D. ARE THEY FEW THAT ARE SAVED???

E. EXCEPT YOU OBEY....THAT IS MAN’S PROBLEM!!!
