

SO CLOSE, YET SO FAR AWAY



LUKE 13:10-35

# INTRODUCTION

*Jesus heals*- the people are amazed

*Jesus drives out demons*-the people are afraid, the religious leaders claim He did so by the power of Satan, rather than God

*Jesus teaches*-the people are amazed and recognize His authority

*Jesus feeds the 10,000*-the people want more

*Jesus dines with redeemed sinners*-the religious leaders condemn Him

*Jesus claims to be God*- they try and kill Him

**Question for today's message:** How someone can hear, follow, and even attach themselves to Jesus and still find themselves under the judgment of God?



# THE HARDNESS OF SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS (10-17)

## *Judaism of Jesus' Day:*

The religious leaders, over time, had taken the commands of God and added to their own man made regulations, restrictions, and practices them...creating a religion of works impossible for any man to keep

In Jesus's ministry when He teaches, He uses this phrase  
"You have heard it said, but I say to you"

*The self righteousness of Israel produced a hardness of heart:*

***Romans 10:2–3 (NASB95) — 2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. 3 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.***

Example: The Synagogue Official

# A MISUNDERSTANDING OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM (18-21)

1) *Mustard seed-Christ's Kingdom and its dominion*

2) *Leaven-Christ's Kingdom and its influence*

*“Christianity has opposed social evils, produced many of the world's greatest scientists, promoted education, and in general given rise to much that has comforted and benefited mankind. In society, as well as in the family, the unregenerate are blessed by their association with the redeemed subjects of the kingdom.” (MacArthur)*

***Ephesians 2:8–10 (NASB95)*** — ***8*** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ***9*** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ***10*** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

***Matthew 5:16 (NASB95)*** — ***16*** “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

***1 Peter 2:12 (NASB95)*** — ***12*** Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

***1 Peter 2:21 (NASB95)*** — ***21*** For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,



# THE WAY TO CHRIST (22-30)

**A Poignant Question (22-23)-“Are there just a few of who are being saved?”**

**The Necessity of Repentance (24) -“Strive”: agōnizomai, to agonize, to struggle, to fight**

*“Avoid a sugared gospel as you would shun sugar of lead. Seek the gospel which rips up and tears and cuts and wounds and hacks and even kills, for that is the gospel that makes alive again. And when you have found it, give good heed to it. Let it enter into your inmost being. As the rain soaks into the ground, so pray the Lord to let his gospel soak into your soul.” – C.H. Spurgeon*

*The divine work of salvation is not deliverance from unfulfillment, dissatisfaction with life, poverty, or poor self-esteem. Salvation is deliverance from God’s wrath and judgment into safety and eternal blessing through the sacrificial death of His Son. (MacArthur)*

**Limited Opportunity (25)**

**An Inadequate Attachment (26-27)**

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**A Shocking Judgment (28-30)**

# COMPASSION AND CONDEMNATION (34-35)

**Jesus indicts Israel on the treatments of the prophet before Him**

**They would kill Him in the same way**

**Compassion: Longing to gather them, though they would not come**

**Condemnation: "Your house is left desolate to you"**



# CONCLUSION

Don't miss Christ!

How do you do that?

- A hard heart- by relying on yourself righteousness
- A wrong view of Christ' kingdom-by creating your own personal Jesus who carries out your personal desires and agenda
- Following the broad way- attaching yourself to Christ in some way other than the way He prescribed ("Strive"-repent)