

Trinity Lutheran – Oregon City, OR  
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### **“Some Are Last Who Will Be First...”**

(Text: Luke 13:22-30)

**Context:** Physician Luke wrote his gospel account especially for a Gentile (non-Jewish) audience. He addressed this gospel to “Theophilus,” a person of stature who had commissioned this work or, perhaps, a symbolic name of anyone who was seeking to know God. The name “Theophilus” means “one who loves God.” Luke writes a thorough and clear record of the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. He emphasizes the humanity of Christ, that God became a man and dwelt among us. He instructs Theophilus in regard to the historical reliability of the faith. He refers to having consulted with “eyewitnesses” (1:2).

#### **I. Some Who Are Close Will Not Come At All. (The Devil, The World, And Our Flesh Want Us To Not Hear Christ’s Call To Us, Individually.)**

- A. We tend to take pride in the groups to which we belong.
  - 1. Instead of enjoying the security of belonging to God (via creation and redemption) we seek a group with hopes of feeling secure.
    - a. The Jewish leaders believed that they belonged to the group who must be “God’s favorites” (sons of Abraham).
    - b. The false security of our group can lead us to be even more proud. – trusting in the “outward” rather than what’s inside. –They said, ‘Hey we hung out with you, man. We were in your group!’ (“We ate and drank in Your presence” -13:26)

- B. Due to sin, it is common to want to delay our response to Christ’s direct invitation to us to repent of sins and to believe the Good News.
  - \* The delay will result in an eternity of weeping/gnashing of teeth.
- C. Repentance (a change of heart) is called for.
  - 1. When the Law of God, in God’s Word, strikes our hearts and minds, we see ourselves as we, truly, are: sinful, lost souls.
  - 2. We abandon any claim to goodness in and of ourselves.
  - 3. As we walk in this life, repentance is a **daily** activity for the honest human being before a holy God. (Luther)

#### **II. Some Who Are Far Away Will Come And Recline At The Table In The Kingdom Of God And Some Who Are Close Will Not Come At All.**

- A. God reaches out to every human soul wherever He finds them.
  - 1. “**All** who call upon the name of the LORD shall be saved” (Rom. 10:13); “For God so loved **the world...**” (John 3:16).
- B. They will come from east and west, north and south to the banquet.
  - 1. From distant peoples, from the four corners of the world.
- C. The Spirit works true repentance and faith (the narrow door) in their hearts. – God does not show favoritism – James 2:9
- D. Genuine faith in Christ lives in their hearts.
- E. Genuine agape-love fills their inner persons and they “do” the love of Christ in their actions. (“...doers of the Word...” James 1:22).
  - 1. Genuine love, mercy, and goodness dwell inside true believers.