**Week of July 22, 2018**

**Luke 13:22-30**

**The Narrow Door**

22Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. 23Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved? ”He said to them, 24“Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. 25Once 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.’26“Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’

27“But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’

28“There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. 29People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. 30Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.”

**Understanding of the Scripture**

We have often heard the terms that talk is cheap or practice what you preach. The meaning that anyone can say or pretend they are something but what does the actions show of the person. Today’s scripture deals with those who may mascaraed around as righteous and say all of the right words but their actions and even more their hearts don’t represent the truth. A question was asked of Jesus as he made his way through the towns and villages if there would only be a few people who are saved. Jesus response was first to address possibly the individuals concern. He responded to them by saying they should make every effort to enter through the narrow door. The narrow door is the profession and belief in Jesus Christ. Jesus warned them that the door will someday be closed and no one will else will enter through the door. In his story that he relayed to them Jesus explained that people will knock on the door and plead to come in and they will talk about all the good they have done and some will even say the good they did in his name. However they will be told to depart. During the time that Jesus was speaking this scripture there were a lot of false prophets proclaiming to be more than they were. There were others who were supposed to be the keepers of the law and the model of righteousness whose hearts were so bad and had very little compassion. They will be told to depart. The scriptural understanding for us is that our hearts must be in alignment with our words which align with God’s word. The term hypocrite which defines one who practices hypocrisy is something that Jesus spoke on very vividly. Those who practice hypocrisy will not enter the kingdom of God. Hypocrisy is the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behavior does not conform; pretense. To those whom practice hypocrisy they will be told to flee. Even though they say Lord we ate with you, we did things in your name, God will tell them to flee, I never knew you. A tree is known by the fruit it bears. We are known by God through our pure actions of our hearts.

