

## STRIVE TO ENTER (PART 3)

Luke 13:22-30  
Yeshua §114

My father-in-law Colin McDougall was one of the best professors I ever had at BIOLA University. I took him for English, but he really taught logic and ethics. I loved it and worked really hard on the assignments. I thought for sure I'd get an A, but he gave me a B. When I asked why, he reminded me that in his syllabus he directed that all our work be written in black ink on one side of the page. I did all my work in blue ink, double sided.

Part 1.	The Coming of the King
Part 2.	The Authentication of the King
Part 3.	The Controversy over the King
Part 4.	The Training of the Twelve by the King
Part 5.	The Opposition to the King
Part 6.	<b>The Preparation of the Disciples by the King</b> <i>Instruction Concerning Entrance into the Kingdom</i>
Part 7.	The Official Presentation of the King
Part 8.	The Preparation for the Death of the King
Part 9.	The Trial of the King:
Part 10.	The Death of the King
Part 11.	The Resurrection and the Ascension of the King
Part 12.	The Sequels

Because of my failure to follow the rules I lost a whole letter grade in a class I really valued. I was disappointed, but it was my fault for not taking his instructions seriously.

Do we take Jesus' instructions seriously? Having received the gift of justification salvation by faith, are we working hard to keep Jesus' commands? We've discovered from Jesus Himself that the only way to gain kingdom life here and now is through obedience to His law.

### SCRIPTURE TEXT

**LUKE 13:22-30**

**22 He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. 23 And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, 24 "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25 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.' 26 Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' 27 But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' 28 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. 29 And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and**

**recline at table in the kingdom of God. 30 And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”**

Thus far in our study of Luke 13:22-30 Jesus reveals the sobering truth:

**Few believers will be delivered from the carnal life and the loss it brings now and in the Messianic Kingdom.**

The reason few are delivered is:

**Tribulation, persecution, worldly pursuits and materialism prevents most believers from gaining kingdom life and the rewards it brings now and in the Messianic Kingdom.**

And yet Jesus urges us to strive for kingdom life.

**Kingdom life is gained by working hard to obey God’s Law.**

The Jews of Luke 13 were under the Mosaic Covenant and therefore the Law of Moses. The Mosaic Covenant and Mosaic Law came to an end with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus (Heb. 7-8). We, now, are under the New Covenant and therefore the Law of Messiah.

What is the Law of Messiah?

**The Law of Messiah consists of all the commands contained in the New Testament that pertain to New Covenant believers.**

Now we can understand what Jesus is teaching us. “By working hard to obey My commands you will gain kingdom life and the rewards it brings now and in My Kingdom.”

**By working hard to obey My commands you will gain kingdom life and the rewards it brings now and in My Kingdom.**

The Law of Messiah is spread throughout the New Testament. On one hand you can’t turn in your Bible to a section that contains the Law of Messiah in its entirety; yet, on the other hand, just about every page of the New Testament contains a command of the Law of Messiah.

As an example, please turn to Colossians 3.

*COLOSSIANS 3:1-25 (ESV)*

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek** the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your minds** on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 **Put to death** therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must **put them all away**: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 **Do not lie to one another**, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

12 **Put on** then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these **put on** love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And **let the peace of Christ rule** in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And **be thankful**. 16 **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly**, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

18 Wives, **submit** to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, **love** your wives, and **do not be harsh** with them. 20 Children, **obey** your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, **do not provoke** your children, lest they become discouraged. 22 Bondservants, **obey** in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. 23

Whatever you do, **work heartily**, as for the Lord and not for men, **24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are **serving** the Lord Christ. **25** For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

Colossians 3 contains 20 to 35 commands depending on how you counted. These commands are a portion of the Law of Messiah.

Obedience to these commands lead to kingdom life, blessing and reward.

But there are potentially two obstacles working against our efforts to obey.

The first is a negative attitude towards Law and law-keeping in general.

### **A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS LAW AND LAW-KEEPING**

In defending the doctrine that justification salvation is a free gift accepted by faith we have inadvertently disparaged the Mosaic Law. Keeping the Mosaic Law is negatively associated with Pharisaism, self-righteousness, spiritual arrogance and hypocrisy. Obeying the Law is often assumed as an effort by a person to work their way to heaven. Law-keeping of any kind is criticized as legalism and contrary to grace.

King David would be baffled by our negative attitude towards the Mosaic Law.

*PSALM 119:1-8 (ESV)*

**<sup>1</sup> Blessed are those whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the law of the LORD!**

**<sup>2</sup> Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,  
who seek him with their whole heart,**

**<sup>3</sup> who also do no wrong,  
but walk in his ways!**

**4 You have commanded your precepts  
to be kept diligently.**

**5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast  
in keeping your statutes!**

**6 Then I shall not be put to shame,  
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.**

**7 I will praise you with an upright heart,  
when I learn your righteous rules.**

**8 I will keep your statutes;  
do not utterly forsake me!**

And again:

*PSALM 119:97-104 (ESV)*

**97 Oh how I love your law!**

**It is my meditation all the day.**

**98 Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,  
for it is ever with me.**

**99 I have more understanding than all my teachers,  
for your testimonies are my meditation.**

**100 I understand more than the aged,  
for I keep your precepts.**

**101 I hold back my feet from every evil way,  
in order to keep your word.**

**102 I do not turn aside from your rules,  
for you have taught me.**

**103 How sweet are your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!**

**104 Through your precepts I get understanding;  
therefore I hate every false way.**

The Apostle Paul, the great defender of *Sola Fidei*, faith alone, did not view the Mosaic Law negatively as we see in Romans 7:12:

*ROMANS 7:12 (ESV)*

**...the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.**

If you find in your heart a negative attitude towards the Law of Messiah or a resistance to the fact that Jesus will hold you accountable to these commands, I encourage you to meditate on Colossians 3 and see it, not as a list of rules, but as a way of life. Look at the quality of life the commands promote.

compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these **put on love,**

Is this not the quality of life you want?

As the Elders discussed Colossians 3 this week the observation was made that these commands do not bind us; they free us! Consider what a joy you will be to live with, to work with as you grow in compassion and kindness towards others. As you grow in humility, patience and a forgiving spirit, relationships all around you will be healed. When husbands love, wives submit and children obey family life is a joy.

For these reasons, we should, like the Psalmist, love the Law of Messiah and thank Jesus for giving His law to us.

The second obstacle to obedience is saturation.

## **THE SECOND OBSTACLE TO OBEDIENCE IS SATURATION**

Our minds are saturated with everything but the Word of Christ.

**Set your minds** on things that are above, not on things that are on earth...

**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,**

How much time do we spend watching FOX news compared to time we spend reading and meditating upon God's Word?

How much time do we spend on social media filling our minds with other peoples' opinions compared to time we spend reading and meditating upon God's Word?

What saturates our minds influences who we are and what we are living for.

If God's Word is not saturating our minds, we will not be delivered from the carnal life and the loss it brings in this life and in the Messianic Kingdom. This is the crisis in the Church today. We do not read in general and we do not read and study God's Word specifically.

Many of you need to pray for a breakthrough. I have ministered thirty years in this dear church family and I can tell you without exaggeration that it is only those men and women who saturate their minds with the Word of Christ who grow spiritually and gain kingdom life.

*PSALM 1:1-6 (ESV)*

**1 Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.  
3 He is like a tree  
planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers.  
4 The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
6 for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

I pray you take this to heart and cry out to God to help you establish the habit, the spiritual discipline of daily, unhurried time with Him in His Word.