

{the Jewish context – v. 22}

- I. A key question concerning the kingdom (v. 23)
 - *“Who is going to get into the kingdom?”*
- II. An illustrated answer concerning the kingdom (vv. 24-27)
 - A. The command (v. 24)
 - 1. The prerequisite command (v. 24a)
 - 2. The reason for the command (v. 24b)
 - B. The illustration (vv. 25-27)
 - 1. The missed opportunity (v. 25)
 - a. The shut door (v. 25a)
 - b. The request (v. 25b)
 - c. The response (v. 25c)
 - 2. The wrong assumption (vv. 26-27)
 - a. The wrong argument (v. 26)
 - b. The righteous response (v. 27)
- III. An unexpected truth concerning the kingdom (vv. 28-29)
 - A. The exclusion of Israelites (v. 28)
 - 1. The inclusion of the fathers and prophets (v. 28b)
 - 2. The exclusion of the non-repentant (v. 28c)
 - 3. The response of the non-repentant (v. 28a)
 - B. The inclusion of the Gentiles (v. 29)
 - 1. The diversity of the kingdom (v. 29a)
 - 2. The joy of the kingdom (v. 29b)
- IV. A paradoxical truth concerning the kingdom (v. 30)
 - *“The ground at the cross is level ground”*