



Sermon Notes

Topic: The Narrow Gate

Preacher: Ps Sam Toms

Date: 23rd March 2025

Bible Passage: Matthew 7:13-14

Sermon Summary

Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV): *“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”*

Following Jesus means embracing a transformed life — one where our values, priorities, and actions align with His. The narrow gate represents a deliberate choice to live according to God's purpose, even when it seems countercultural or difficult. Let's explore what it means to walk the narrow path and live out these realigned values.



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Life Group Study Guide

1. The Narrow Gate: Embracing New Values

- Jesus is the Gate:
 - Read John 10:7-9: “I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.”
 - Entering the narrow gate means surrendering our old way of life and embracing God’s values. Salvation isn’t earned by walking a perfect path — it begins with choosing Jesus.
 - Realignment starts here: we shift from self-reliance to God-dependence.

Discussion Questions:

- What values did you hold before choosing to follow Jesus? How have they changed?
- Why do you think it’s difficult for people to accept that they need help finding the right path?

Reflection:

- What old values or habits might God be asking you to leave behind?



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2. The Narrow Path: Living Out Transformed Values

- **Discipleship Requires Realignment:**

- Read Matthew 11:29: “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”
- Walking the narrow path means aligning our daily choices with God’s heart — prioritizing love, forgiveness, integrity, and self-sacrifice.
- As we follow Jesus, our conscience sharpens, and our desires change. What once seemed acceptable may no longer align with the life God calls us to.

Discussion Questions:

- How do you intentionally align your daily decisions with God’s values?
- Share a time when living according to God’s ways led to a difficult but meaningful decision.

Illustration:

- Think of skiers navigating a forest. If they focus on the trees, they’ll crash. If they focus on the path, they glide through. In life, focusing on Jesus helps us avoid distractions and stay aligned with His purpose.

Reflection:

- What practical steps can you take to refocus on God’s purpose when life gets busy?



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3. Narrow-Minded vs. Narrow Focus:

- **Narrow Focus on Christ:**

- Narrow-mindedness shuts others out. Jesus didn't live that way — He engaged, listened, and loved.
- Walking the narrow path means keeping our focus on Christ while extending compassion to others. It's about living with conviction, not condemnation.

Discussion Questions:

- How do we stay committed to God's truth while remaining open-hearted toward others?
- In what ways can our church community support each other in living out God's values?



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4. Practical Application: Aligning Your Life with God's Values

- **Feed Your Mind:** Choose content that nurtures your faith and strengthens your walk with God.
- **Guard Your Relationships:** Set healthy boundaries to protect what matters most. Honor God in how you relate to others.
- **Focus on Jesus:** Hebrews 12:2 urges us to "fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."

Group Challenge:

- Identify one area where your values need realignment. Commit to taking one step this week toward embracing God's way.

Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to reveal areas where your life needs to be realigned with His values.
- Pray for strength to walk the narrow path, even when it's hard.



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Closing Thought:

Following Jesus means more than just believing — it means living a transformed life that reflects His values. The narrow path is challenging, but it leads to true purpose and abundant life.

1 Corinthians 1:23: "We preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles."

Let's embrace the narrow path, fixing our eyes on Jesus and allowing His values to shape every part of our lives.