

Gospel of Matthew “The Narrow and Broad”
Matthew 7:13-14
September 18, 2022

The entire sermon is meant to bring us to a point of decision.

Matthew 7:13-14

13 “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

On the broad road, you don’t have to commit to anything.

John 10:7-9

7 So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

John 14:6-7

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

John 17:3

3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

If God really loves us, then why make the way to heaven so exclusive?

We underestimate our need.

Romans 3:10-11

As it is written:

“There is no one righteous, not even one;
11 there is no one who understands;
there is no one who seeks God.

Ephesians 2:1-3

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

Without help we won’t ever get to God.

Ephesians 2:3-4

Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

The miracle is that despite our sin God has come, anyway.

The paradox of limiting and liberating.

1 Corinthians 6:10-13

10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

11 We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. 12 You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. 13 In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

The way through the narrow gate is by having your heart widened.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- What is uncomfortable about the narrowness of the gate and road? Why do we tend to appreciate having lots of options?
- What are some of the problems that arise if objective truth is removed and everyone's personal desire and viewpoint are championed?
- How would you explain to someone else why the way to life seems so exclusive? How does Jesus set Himself apart from all other ways?
- How have you experienced the paradoxical Christian truth that what seems so limiting is actually liberating?
- Is there someone you know that needs to make a salvation decision? Spend a few moments pray for them.