

Part 3. The Gospel

Lesson 3: The Narrow and Wide Gates

Lesson Summary

In Matthew 7:13–14, Jesus presents a sobering choice between **two gates, two paths, and two destinies**: one leading to life, the other to destruction. The wide gate is popular, easy, and inclusive, but it ends in eternal ruin. The narrow gate is hard, exclusive, and costly, but it alone leads to eternal life. The gate is narrow because sin has separated man from God (Isa. 59:2), and only Jesus, through His cross, provides the way back (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). To walk the narrow path means repentance, surrender, and daily dying to self (Luke 9:23; Gal. 2:20). Few choose it because the broad way promises ease and popularity, but true discipleship requires sacrifice and transformation (Rom. 12:1–2). The narrow way produces godly fruit (Matt. 7:15–20; Gal. 5:22–23), while the broad way results in decay and destruction. Christ not only opened the gate—He walks with us on the road and leads us to eternal life.

Key Takeaways

- **Two gates, two paths, two destinies**—life or destruction (Matt. 7:13–14).
- The **wide gate** is easy, popular, and deceptive, leading to ruin (Prov. 14:12).
- The **narrow gate** is entered only through Christ (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).
- Following Christ requires **repentance, surrender, and self-denial** (Luke 9:23; Gal. 2:20).
- The **narrow path bears fruit**—love, obedience, and holiness (Matt. 7:15–20; Gal. 5:22–23).
- The **broad path appeals to the flesh**, offering temporary comfort but eternal loss.
- Though few find the narrow way, it leads to eternal joy in Christ.

Questions & Answers

1. **Q:** What choice does Jesus present in Matthew 7:13–14?
A: Two gates and two roads: one leading to life, the other to destruction.
2. **Q:** Why is the gate narrow?
A: Because sin separates us from God (Isa. 59:2), and only Christ's cross provides the way (John 14:6).
3. **Q:** Why do so many choose the wide road?
A: Because it is easy, popular, and appeals to the flesh, though it ends in destruction (Prov. 14:12).
4. **Q:** What does it mean to walk the narrow road?
A: To repent, surrender, and daily die to self in obedience to Christ (Luke 9:23; Gal. 2:20).
5. **Q:** What fruit comes from walking the narrow path?
A: Godly character, spiritual growth, and the fruit of the Spirit (Matt. 7:15–20; Gal. 5:22–23).
6. **Q:** What comfort do believers have on the narrow way?
A: Christ Himself is the Gate, the Guide, and the Strength for the journey (John 10:9).

“The wide gate leads to ruin, but the narrow gate leads to life—through Christ alone, who opens the way and walks it with us.”