

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

FAMILY DEVOS



The Narrow Gate

Scripture: Matthew 7:13-14

Memory Verse: Matthew 7:14

“Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

For My Family:

Have you ever gone hiking before? Sometimes on a hike, you find yourself on a narrow path that's difficult to walk on. Other times, you might have to climb a fallen tree, leap across a stream of water, or balance on a small rock. Hiking is much harder than walking on a sidewalk or paved road, which is why some people don't like hiking much. But those who press on despite these difficulties are rewarded with beautiful views, such as mountaintops and waterfalls. In today's verses, Jesus says that the Christian life is like this.

In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus continues his sermon by contrasting two paths. The first path is wide and easy to walk on, with a big gate in the front of it and many people on it. This path, He says, leads to destruction. The other path is much narrower and begins with a skinny gate. Few people even find this path, let alone walk on it, and it's not an easy path to take. However, this path leads to eternal life. These two paths represent the two different ways we can live our life.

The first path represents living life our own way, doing what makes us feel good. This is the easier path, which is why many people choose it. When you go down this path, you don't have to listen to God or follow His rules. You can do whatever you want. People on this path think that they know better than God. But while this path is easier and more popular, everyone who takes it regrets it in the end because it leads to destruction.

The narrow path is the path of following the Lord. This path is more difficult and less popular. It requires obeying God's commands, even when you'd rather do something else. You might feel left out when everyone else is living their own way and you're the only one on the path of following Jesus. Jesus asks us to be willing to give up everything we have to follow Him, and many times being a Christian will cost you something. But no matter how hard following Jesus gets, it is always worth it because the end reward is eternal life.

Each of us has a choice to make. Will you choose the wide, easy path, or the narrow, difficult one? If you just focus on your life here and now, it is likely you will pick the easy path and ignore its terrible end. That's why it's important to remember where each path leads. The living your own way might sound nice now, since you can do whatever you want, but the end is only misery and pain. On the other hand, following Jesus is hard work. It requires putting what He wants ahead of what you want. It could cost you friends and popularity. But no matter what following Jesus costs you, the reward at the end of eternal life makes it worth it. So choose the path of life today!

Questions for Young Children:

Why does the wide, easy path represent?

What does the narrow, difficult path represent?

Why is it better to choose the narrow path?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

What are some things that make it difficult to follow Jesus?

Can you think of a time when doing what God wanted cost you something?

Why do you think so many people take the path that leads to destruction?