

Narrow is the path of salvation, but wide is the invitation to enter the narrow path.

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, *(That’s narrow there is only one way)* , so that **everyone** who believes in him *(That is an open offer)* will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:11,12

There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death. Proverbs 14:12

3. A Call To Personal Action

“Enter through the narrow gate. Matthew 7:13

By their fruit you will recognize them. Matthew 7:16

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? Luke 6:46

As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. ⁴⁸ They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. Luke 6:47,48

Ask and it shall be given to you. Seek and you shall find. Knock and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. And he who seeks, finds. And to him who knocks, it shall be opened.” Matthew 7:7



Sierra Community Church
Dan Wilvers Part 9

May 8th, 2016
Happy Mother's Day!

“What The Heck Is A Christian, Then?” Matthew 7:13-27

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. ¹⁵ Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

²¹ Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

²⁴ Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

1. A Call To Judgment

“Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ ” Matthew 7:22,23

Four things we know about them.

1. What they did, they did in Jesus’ name.
2. By calling Jesus “Lord,” they are showing that they believe he is the Son of God.
3. They say, “Lord, Lord.” Intensity of emotion was conveyed through doubling.
4. They’re in ministry. People’s lives are being changed by what they’re doing.

What Jesus is saying is, “*You have the doctrine right.
You’re excited about me. You’re in the church.
You’re doing ministry. You’re changing people’s lives,
and you’re not saved.*”

2. A Call To A Very Distinct Position

“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.”
Matthew 7:13,14

First of all what have we read this morning?

That there are *two trees that look exactly alike* except something is wrong inside because one bears fruit and one doesn’t, right? That *there are these two homes* that are standing there, and they *look exactly the same*, but underneath, hidden, they’re on two different foundations, and here you have the false disciples, and the true disciples who look the same on the surface as well, but our on two very distinct paths.

“The two roads are those who are counting on themselves and those people who know only Jesus can do it for them.”

Why is the one road wide? Because it includes everybody else who don’t trust in Jesus for their salvation. *Atheists, Agnostics, and all the religious folks who are earning stripes to Heaven are on the same path.* They’ve all chosen another path away from the path of Christ.

They’re still in some way, shape or form trusting in themselves. Contrast that with what the Apostle Paul writes:

We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort,
Philippians 3:3b

Why is the other road narrow? Because few find Christ and because the way to God is a singular path.

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. **No one** can come to the **Father except through me.**”
John 14:6

John MacArthur: At the close of this sermon, Jesus gave a command. The command is in verse 13. “Enter by the narrow gate.” Every biblical call to the gospel is a command. Repent. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. These are all imperatives, commands, mandates which call for obedience or disobedience, compliance or rebellion. So the Lord ends his sermon with a command and a strong and unmistakable command at that. It is now make up your mind time on the mountain.

Secondly, it’s narrow because going in **it takes radical repentance.**

“Blessed are the poor in spirit.” It means to be **spiritually bankrupt.**

When you’re doing that kind of radical repentance ... you know you need salvation by sheer grace, and Christianity is the only religion in the world that offers it.