



ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS -  
THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT  
SESSION 23 – BROAD AND  
NARROW ROADS (Mt 7:13-14)

# Broad and Narrow Roads (Mt 7:13-14)

**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.**





# Initial Questions

- What are these gates?
- Where is the gate?
- How hard do I need to look?
- What is life?
- What is “destruction”?

# Context

- On the home stretch....
- Several comparisons
- The Broad and Narrow Roads (Mt 7:13-14)
- Good and Bad Trees (Mt 7:15-20)
- True and False Disciples (Mt 7:21-23)
- Wise and Foolish Builders (Mt 7:24-25)
- Close: When Jesus finished saying these things... (Mt 7:28-29)

A close-up photograph of a weathered wooden post. A dark, square wooden plaque is mounted on the post, featuring a white number '2' in the center. Two small brass fasteners are visible on the plaque. A blue pipe runs horizontally across the background. A black text box with white text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

HOW MANY ROADS ARE  
THERE?



- Two Roads.
- Two Gates.
- Two Destinations.
- Two Crowds.

**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.**



# Narrow entrance but Wide invitation

- Of course, this is only one side of the picture. Jesus can also be found giving broad invitations (see Matt. 11:28–30; John 7:37f.); and he is known as the one who will not break bruised reeds nor quench smoldering wicks (Matt. 12:20).
- But this only means that to the crushed, bruised, downtrodden, and weary he shows himself to be gracious. Jesus is called as a doctor to the sick, not the well; as a Savior for sinners, not for the righteous (Matt. 9:12f.).
- The broken people do not need large lessons on poverty of spirit: they've already learned them, and now need words of grace and hope. [Carson]
- What do you think about that?





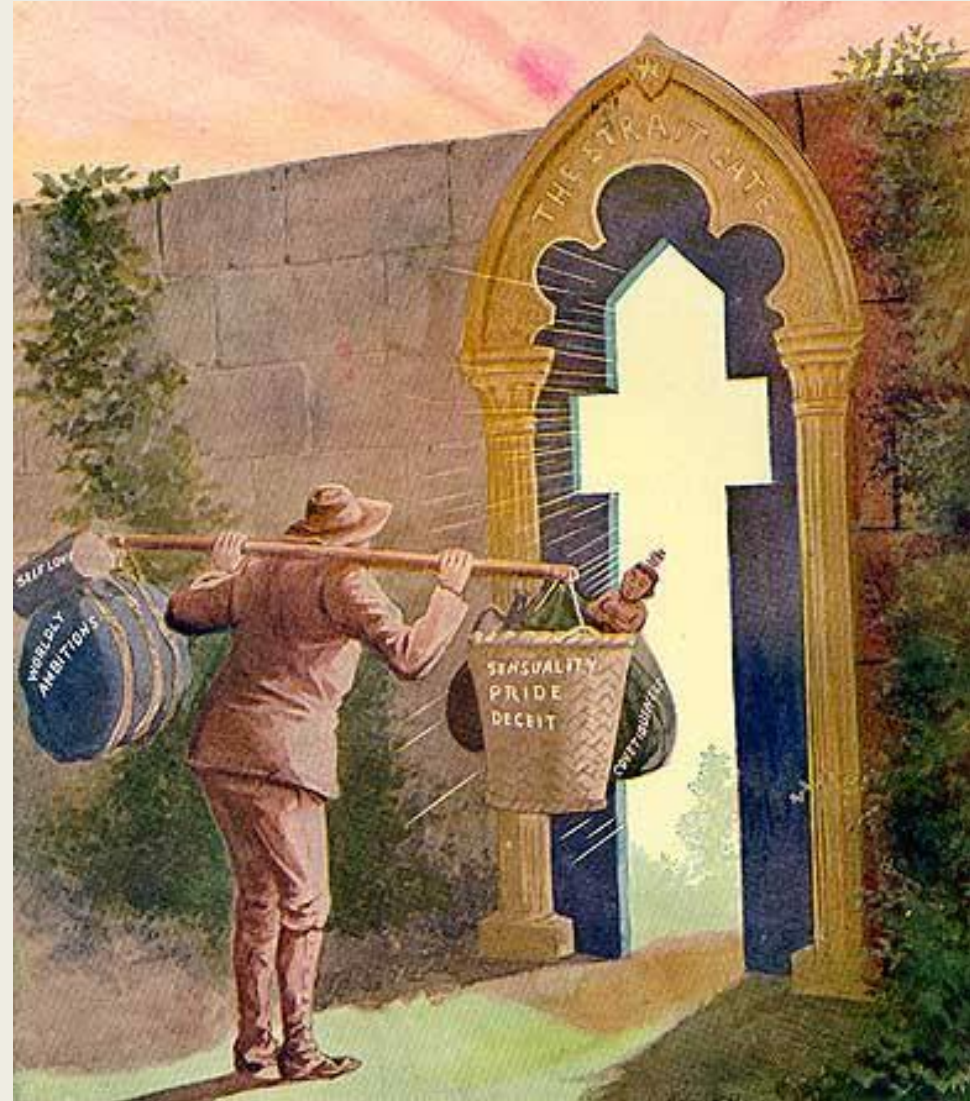
# The narrow gate

- Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?” He said to them, “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. (Lk 13:23-24)
- Looking at the narrow door in this picture, what do you think of?



# So, what do we need to do to find life?

- *But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*
- Intentional and persistent looking/seeking.
- Might have to leave some things at the door.
- Cost no object - Merchant looking for find pearls. (Mt 13:45)
- Understanding the value – treasure hidden in a field. (Mt 13:44)
- And then, staying on the road.





# Psalm 1

**Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night.**

**That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.**

**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction. (Ps 1:1-6)**

**Thinking about this Psalm in light of Mt 7:13-14, what additional insight does Psalm 1 offer?**

- **Where your delight is, fruit of life, life that leads to destruction.**



# Destruction

- For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their **destiny is destruction**, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. (Php 3:18-21)
- Missing out on transformation.
- Place of mindset and heart.
- What do you think?





# What is “the life”?

- Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. (Gal 6:7-8)
- It's where your investments are made. Where are you sowing today?
- Pleasing the Spirit – living righteously – right relationships, godly character, not living to please the flesh (pride, greed, jealousy, lust etc)

# The way and the life.

- Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” (Jn 14:5-6)
- What do we learn here about finding the way?



In your own words

*Enter through the narrow gate...*

**How would you say it in your own words?**





# Reflection

- How much attention am I paying to finding the narrow way?
- Does “the narrow way” feel restrictive or certain?
- What might I have to leave at the door to get through the narrow gate?