

## Matthew 7:13-14

### Introduction

- A. In the conclusion to the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warns us about what will happen if we fail to rightly \_\_\_\_\_ to His teaching.
- B. We can listen all we want, but at the end of the day, Jesus calls for \_\_\_\_\_.

#### I. “Enter by the narrow gate.”

#### II. Verse 13

- A. “For the gate is wide and the way is easy”
  - 1. Note – I believe that the “gate” and the “way” are two related pictures that make exactly the same point.
  - 2. To say that the gate is wide is to say that it beckons \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3. To say that the gate is easy is to say that it is \_\_\_\_\_ and very *accommodating*.
  - 4. This is the wide gate. But Jesus said: “Enter by the \_\_\_\_\_ gate.”  
*Why?*
- B. “For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to *destruction*.”
  - 1. This path is beautiful and comfortable and easy because it is the path of least \_\_\_\_\_ to our sinful and selfish \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2. The wide gate and the spacious way that leads to destruction is a \_\_\_\_\_ to all of us.
  - 3. We just don’t want to \_\_\_\_\_ that the path of least resistance really does lead to hell.
  - 4. This is *why*...
- C. “And those who enter by it are many.”
  - 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of people enter by the wide gate and go on to destruction.

2. Here is another stumbling block: If we desire to \_\_\_\_\_, and if we desire the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world, then we will have to join them on the path to hell.

### III. Verse 14

#### A. "How narrow is the gate and [how] hard is the way."

1. To say that the gate is narrow is to say that it is difficult and uncomfortable to get \_\_\_\_\_.  
  - a. The narrow gate "restricts" us with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. The narrow gate \_\_\_\_\_ something of those who would pass through it.
2. "Hard" is literally "\_\_\_\_\_ upon" (Mk. 3:9; Luke 8:45).  
  - a. There are the pressures of constant \_\_\_\_\_ to sin and idolatry that must be steadfastly resisted.
  - b. There is also the pressure of \_\_\_\_\_ that must be humbly endured.
3. The idea is this: **How** \_\_\_\_\_ **narrow** is the gate and **how** \_\_\_\_\_ **hard** is the way!
4. So *why* the narrow gate and the hard way?

#### B. "How narrow is the gate and [how] hard is the way that leads to *life*."

1. Here is another stumbling block.
2. Is eternal life really \_\_\_\_\_ the narrow gate and the hard way? For the majority of people the answer is "\_\_\_\_\_."
3. It is *only* the total \_\_\_\_\_ of the human heart that can possibly explain this irrational thinking (cf. Rom. 1:28-32).

#### C. "How narrow is the gate and [how] hard is the way that leads to life, and those who find it are few."

1. The people who enter by the narrow gate are in the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. And yet now we see that the amazing thing is not that there are few, but that there are \_\_\_\_\_ at all.
3. "For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and **those who enter by it** are many. How narrow is the gate and hard is the way that leads to life, and **those who find it** are few."  
  - a. There is no need to *find* the \_\_\_\_\_ gate. But the \_\_\_\_\_ gate must be found.
  - b. The fact that some people find it is a testimony to the irresistibly powerful \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - c. It is in the light of this grace that we must hear Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to enter through the narrow gate.

## Conclusion

A. “There are only two ways, hard and easy (there is no middle way), entered by two gates, broad and narrow (there is no other gate), trodden by two crowds, large and small (there is no neutral group), ending in two destinations, destruction and life (there is no third alternative).” (Stott)

B. The kingdom way is the path of greatest resistance.

1. Hebrews 12:3-4 – Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.
2. And yet once we have entered through the narrow gate and trodden the hard way we will find that God’s grace actually turns the hard way into the \_\_\_\_\_ way.
3. Matthew 11:28-30 – Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

C. The Kingdom way is the road less traveled.

1. Matthew 10:34-37 – Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
2. But one day we will find that the minority is actually a vast, uncountable \_\_\_\_\_ who exult *together* in God’s great salvation.
3. Matthew 20:28 – The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.
4. Revelation 7:9-10 – After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

## Teaching our Children

NOTE: I would always encourage you to read through the Questions and Answers ahead of time so you can get your own “feel” for *what* you want to communicate to your children and *how* you want to do it. In this way, you will not have to “woodenly” read the answers that I have provided. The answers on this page are really for you, so that you can then adapt them appropriately for your children as you strive to impart to them wisdom and truth.

- Q.** How many gates did Jesus say there are? What are they?  
A. There are only two gates. There is a wide gate and there is a narrow gate.
- Q.** How many ways/roads did Jesus say that there are? What are they?  
A. There are only two ways. There is the easy way and there is the hard way.
- Q.** What *sounds* like the best way at first?  
A. The *easy* way! The *wide* gate.
- Q.** What makes the first way so easy? What makes the wide gate so attractive?  
A. When we enter through the wide gate, we can do as we please and follow our own desires. There are no rules. (Admit how attractive this really can be!)
- Q.** But where does the wide gate and the easy way lead to?  
A. The wide gate and the easy way lead to destruction (hell)

Talk with your children about how sometimes we just don't *want* to believe that something so “nice” as the easy and comfortable way could really lead to something so terrible as eternal destruction.

- Q.** What is so hard about the second way? What is so “unattractive” about the narrow gate?  
A. ~ We can only enter through the narrow gate when we stop doing as we please and following our own desires, and start obeying Jesus and living for God's glory.  
~ When we enter through the narrow gate we will have a very intense and difficult struggle against sin.  
~ When we enter through the narrow gate we will have to quietly endure mockery and persecution.
- Q.** But where does the narrow gate and the hard way lead to?  
A. The narrow gate and the hard way lead to everlasting life.
- Q.** Since there are only two paths and since everyone knows (deep inside) that the easy path leads to destruction, how many people would you expect to find on the hard path that leads to life?  
A. *Everyone!!!* The choice is *obvious!!!*
- Q.** But which gate do most people go through?  
A. The wide gate. Most people would rather have the easy way than have everlasting life.
- Q.** Which gate will you enter through (wide or narrow)? Which path will you walk on (easy or hard?)

Help your children to see the need for repentance and faith and a daily commitment to following after Jesus and turning away from our sinful desires (the narrow gate and hard way).

**CELEBRATE the powerful, miracle working GRACE of God that enables us to find the narrow gate and walk in the hard way when most of the world would rather enter through the wide gate and take the easy path to destruction!** (See Scriptures under Conclusion B. 3. & C. 4.)