

November 25, 2018

The Narrow Gate
Matthew 7:13-23
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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



Matthew 7:20

**Therefore by their
fruits you will know
them.**

Have you ever wondered if you are on the right path? This passage from the Sermon on the Mount tells us that the way to Heaven is narrow and hard to travel and the way to destruction is wide and easy. That is enough for all of us to question if we are on the right path. The passage goes on to talk about bearing good fruit and that all good trees bear good fruit. Then He says not everyone who calls Him Lord will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. All of this together is enough to make most of us really nervous about being on the right path. What we can be sure about is that Jesus has invited all of us to join Him on the path to Heaven. It is not just an invitation but He has paid our way. Join us this week as we talk about what it looks like to be on the right path and how we can have complete confidence that we are on it.

Matthew 7:13-23 New English Translation

The Narrow Gate

¹³“Enter through the narrow gate, because the gate is wide and the way is spacious that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴How narrow is the gate and difficult the way that leads to life, and there are few who find it!

A Tree and Its Fruit

¹⁵“Watch out for false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are voracious wolves. ¹⁶You will recognize them by their fruit. Grapes are not gathered from thorns or figs from thistles, are they? ¹⁷In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the

bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree is not able to bear bad fruit, nor a bad tree to bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰So then, you will recognize them by their fruit.

Judgment of Pretenders

²¹“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of heaven—only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²²On that day, many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, and in your name cast out demons and do many powerful deeds?’ ²³Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you. Go away from me, you lawbreakers!’

🕒 EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.

4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. Where do the narrow gate and the wide gate lead? What does this represent?

9. How do we recognize false prophets?

10. What is the difference between a good tree and a bad tree? What do they represent? How does this relate to 7:11?

11. How can people call Jesus Lord and not go to heaven?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

12. How do we get into Heaven? Is it a hard path?

13. Is it possible to tell if someone else is saved? What are the signs?

14. How do you know you are going to the Kingdom of Heaven?

15. Have you ever known a false prophet? How did you know they were a false prophet?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...