

Sermon on the Mount Part 20  
The Road Less Traveled!  
Matthew 7:13-14

**I. The overview picture that Jesus paints in these verses.**

- In life there are two gates, two roads, and two destinations
  - One is narrow, difficult, and has few travelers
  - One is wide, easy, and has many travelers
  - One road will end in life and the other will end in destruction

**II. What is the Narrow Gate?**

- Jesus is that Narrow Gate that leads to life.
  - John 8:51-59 and John 10:1-9
  - John 14:6 and John 17:1-2
- Jesus Christ is the way to eternal life in Heaven!

**III. What is the narrow way of Life?**

- In short we could say that the “Way” of life that Jesus is mentioning in this verse is directly tied to the previous verses we have looked at over the past 19 teachings!
  - Beatitudes, Being Salt and Light, Christ coming to fulfill the law, Anger, Lust, Divorce
  - Oaths, Retaliation, Loving your enemies, Giving to the needy,
  - Prayer, Fasting, Laying up treasures in heaven, Do not Worry
  - Judging others, Beware of false prophets, Building our lives upon the Rock!
- This way of life as a believer is what I would simply call sanctification
  - Rom 12:1-2 and Gal 2:20
  - 1Pe 3:15

**IV. This narrow way of life is HARD!**

- In Matthew 7:14 Jesus said that the gate is narrow and the way is “HARD” that leads to life.
- In the culture here in the United States I believe we have become a people that are very soft.
  - We do not like hardship and difficult times
  - We have become a people that want things now and are unwilling to put in the time and effort it takes to get these things in God’s timing
- This way of life has also affected our spiritual walks as well.
  - Our prayer is “Lord give me patience and give it to me now”
  - Many are unwilling to put in the work, time, and effort it takes to come into a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ.
    - This type of life is marked by prayer, fasting, studying God’s word, and service.
    - We cannot expect to simply come to church on Sunday and focus a couple of hours on the teaching of God’s word and then do nothing with what has been taught on a personal level.
- Jesus and the Apostles taught that the way was hard
  - Matthew 10:34-39 and John 16:33
  - Acts 14:19, 21-22 and II Timothy 2:3
  - II Timothy 3:10-12
- In short as a believer in Jesus Christ we will face hardships for our faith. We will also face hardship just as the non-believers do.
  - John 15:20 and Matthew 5:45

**V. Those who find the narrow way are few**

- Statistically
  - We find that roughly 90% plus of people who are surveyed say they believe in God.
  - The question really becomes which God do they believe in?
- Share the information found in the George Barna Article title Changes in Worldview among Christians over the past 13 years.
  - Define the question: If Jesus were to ask “Who do you say I am” what would be your answer?
  - Define what the worldview was listed in the survey.
  - National Results
    - 9% of Americans actually have a Biblical worldview.
    - That means out of the 309 million people living in the United States roughly 27.8 million have a biblical world view.

**VI. There is the promise of Eternal life for those on the narrow way**

- John 3:16, Romans 6:23, John 14:1-6, I Corinthians 15:50-58, Romans 8:31-39

**VII. The broadway is wide and many travel on it.**

- The wide path is marked by those living as in Romans 1:21-32
- In the end this life simply leads to destruction