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Sermon Notes

Slide Deck

Men

Living Deployment Ready

Men, don't miss out on our upcoming series on Living Deployment Ready! God has called us to advance His kingdom. This series will help us hone our skills, so we are always ready for deployment – ready to advance God's kingdom, ready to minister to others in God's power, on the front lines.

- When: Thursday, February 12 to March 26, 2026 (morning and evening options)
- Cost: \$25 until February 1st and \$35 after February 1st.
- Time: Thursdays at 6:30 pm.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/511/responses>



Prayer

Freedom Prayer

We provide a prayer opportunity for anyone who feels the need for increased freedom and personal breakthrough in their lives. You will be walked through a process of Freedom Prayer by 2 or 3 of our trained Ministry Team Members.

Come with an expectant and receptive heart for the Lord to powerfully minister to you!

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.org/prayer>



Intercessory Prayer

Join us for Intercessory prayer, Tuesday nights at 6:30pm, or Thursday mornings at 6:30am.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.org/prayer>



Re-Gen

Regen, 2nd and 4th Sundays

Re-gen, for 18 to 30s, meets here at Harborview on the second and fourth Sunday's beginning at 5:30pm.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.org/re-gen-young-adults-ministry>

RE-GEN

Small Groups

Small Groups exist to help each one of us grow up into the life of God within us.

They are a primary mechanism for shepherding through relationship + discipleship.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/368/responses>



Freedom Intensive

The Freedom Intensive Plus Winter 2026 conference will offer four training tracks: Living Set Free (LSF), Hearing God's Voice (HGV), Freedom Prayer Training (FPT), and At the Heart of Generosity (AHG).

The conference will take place on Thursday, February 5, through Saturday, February 7, 2026.

\$105* per person for Early Bird Registration by January 26, 2026 (the price is \$90* if you already own a manual).

\$135* per person for Registration after January 26, 2026 (the price will be \$120* if you own a manual).

*tax included

Have children? We have a special session of Hearing God's Voice for Harborview Families offered weekly this Winter. Details to come!

Learn more, or register here:

<https://sycamorecommission.org/events/events-at-harborview>



Hearing God's Voice - Weekly Class

Can't make it to the weekend intensive?

We will have a 6-week class of Hearing God's Voice on Monday nights beginning February 23rd. You will want to have taken Living Set Free before taking this class. Onsite childcare will be provided. The class is \$40 per person, tax included. If you need childcare, there will be a nominal additional fee.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/510/responses>



Wednesday Night Youth Group

The Edge Youth Group for Middle School and High School meets at Harborview Fellowship at 6:15pm every Wednesday Night.



Giving

Thank you for being a part of Harborview Fellowship Church. Your donations are used to support, grow, and advance God's kingdom through a number of ministries at Harborview Fellowship including Children and Youth ministries, Outreach, Missions, Operations, and Jesus Ministry training both locally and globally.

You can mail a check, or give online to the link below.

Harborview Fellowship
4819 Hunt Street NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.org/give>



Women

Women of Strength Study

Women, you are not an accessory. You are essential. YOU ARE CRITICAL TO GOD'S KINGDOM PURPOSES ON EARTH. The man and woman are to rule the earth together. Each has their role, but just as the triune God collaborates, relates, and rules creation, so the man and woman are to rule the earth. What does that look like?

According to the Bible, how does a woman of strength and courage look? How is she to live in God's design and embrace His call? Ladies, join us for the upcoming 7-session winter study on "Women of Strength and Courage."

- When: Thursday, February 12 to March 26, 2026 (morning and evening options)
- Cost: \$25 until February 1st and \$35 after February 1st.
- Time: Thursdays at 9:30 am and 6:30 pm.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/509/responses>



GATES AND PATHS

Matthew 7 13-14

*INTRODUCTION

In reading the Sermon on the Mount and other teachings of Jesus, the truths seem counterintuitive, countercultural, and upside down in our world system.

- Dying to self
 - Serving others
 - Forgiving those who hurt us
 - Praying for our enemies
 - Self-sacrificial love
 - Turning the other cheek
 - Not storing up treasures on earth
- The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 is no mere collection of lofty ideals .
 - It is Jesus' blueprint for Kingdom citizenship, which builds toward this razor-sharp fork in the road.
 - Picture it: crowds hanging on His words, and then this—Matthew 7:13-14.
 - Two gates.
 - Two paths.
 - Two Destinies
 - One leads multitudes to destruction.
 - The other, narrow and hard, guides a faithful few to life.

The fork presents us with either a narrow gate and difficult path or broad gate and easy road.

***Matthew 7:13-14** (NKJV) *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*

***Picture Again** (Up to This Point)

- So far, in Jesus' teaching compiled in the Sermon on the Mount, He's defined the **narrow gate and hard path.**
 - The Beatitudes, heart renovation, loving enemies, secret giving and prayer, heavenly treasures, peace and trust in God, humble assessments, and personal transformation prioritized.
 - It demands countercultural surrender that crushes fleshly pride.

- The **broad way**? It follows the world's script—pride, self-promotion, self-justification, retaliation, hoarding, worry, hypocrisy, judging others.
- Today, we trace this path of Jesus' words to help us identify the narrow and broad gates and the hard and easy paths.

*THE GATES

Heart Posture - Matthew 5:3-12

Narrow Gate

- Blessed Poverty of Spirit Opens the Gate.
- The narrow path begins with the soul or inner person.

***Matthew 5:3–5** (NKJV) *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.”*

- Poor in spirit means bankrupt before God, owning your spiritual poverty.
- Then mourning follows, and with that true repentance over sin.
- Meekness (humble strength) then characterizes the Kingdom citizen (5:5).
- It is the merciful (5:7), pure or singleness of heart (5:8), and peace makers (5:9), who filter out the half-hearted.
- This kingdom remnant rejoices in when they are persecuted for Jesus' sake: “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven” (5:10-12).

*Broad Gate

- The broad road shouts, “Blessed are the proud, the self-made, the self-righteous, the influencers.”
- Yet Scripture says that God resists the proud (James 4:6).
- Pride bars the narrow gate like a locked door.
- The narrow gate requires humility and willingness to repent.

*THE WAYS

Relational Righteousness - Matthew 5:21-48

The Hard Path

- Love supernaturally.
 - More than refusing to murder, refuse to carry anger toward your brother.

***Matthew 5:21–22** (NKJV) *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ 22 But I say to you*

that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.

- ***Refrain from adulterous lust.**

***Matthew 5:28** (NKJV) *But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

- ***Love, bless, and pray for your enemies.**

***Matthew 5:44** (NKJV) *But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,*

- ***Be perfect like God.**

***Matthew 5:45–48** (NKJV) *that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. . . . 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

- ***Daily self-denial.**

***Luke 9:23** (NKJV) *Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*

- It inverts the world’s hierarchy of power and payback.
- The natural man in every person cannot live such a life because it costs everything.

***The Easy & Hard Paths**

- **The easy way justifies it all:**

- anger as righteous
- lust as private
- divorce as freedom
- oaths as deception
- revenge as justice—“an eye for an eye” (5:38).

- **But hard path crucifies these:**

- “Do not return evil for evil
- But whoever slaps you, allow him the other cheek” (5:39)
- Go the extra mile (5:41)
- Give your cloak along with your shirt.

Personal Devotion - Matthew 6:1-18*The Hard Path**

- “Do your good deeds in secret... your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly” (6:4,6,18).
- The hard way is content with the Father’s audience, and needs no one else’s.
- The hard way is selfless in devotion and ministry. The Lord’s Prayer models it:
 - “Your kingdom come. Your will be done” (6:10).
 - Forgive others as God has forgiven you (6:14-15; see Matthew 18:35).

***The Easy Path**

- Self-promotion and unforgiveness are the easy road.
- Hypocrites parade for praise.
 - Showy giving, prayer, fasting? That’s broad gate-easy road theater, sounding trumpets for men’s applause (6:2,5,16).
- Consumerism, self-gratification vs. mission is the broad path.

Heavenly Treasures - Matthew 6:19-34*Hard Path**

- Live in light of eternity, not earthly treasures.

***Matthew 6:19–20** (NKJV) *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

- ***Serve God only and seek first His kingdom.**
 - Not pride, position, power, or prosperity.

***Matthew 6:24** (NKJV) . . . *You cannot serve God and mammon.*

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

***Easy Path**

- Easy road obsesses over hoarding earthly possessions and ensuring temporal security.
- It is living obsessed with earthly positions, power, prominence, and prosperity.

*Humble Judgment and Pursuit - Matthew 7:1-12

Hard Path

- Refuses to self-righteously judge others according to personal standards.
- Pursues divine righteousness and, in humility, spiritual growth and transformation.
- In humility, treat others with grace and mercy the way you would want to be treated.

*Easy Path

- Arrogantly and self-righteously regards and judges others.
- Passively pursues personal godliness.
- Selfishly seeks personal benefits and recognition.

*APPLICATION

Characteristics of the *narrow gate* and *hard path* life:

- Humility and mourn sin (5:4)
 - Seek solely God and His Kingdom first (6:33)
 - Love radically (5:44)
 - Live sacrificially
 - No wrongful anger (5:22)
 - Pray for enemies (5:44)
 - Forgive endlessly (6:14-15)
 - Refuse idolatry of money (6:24)
 - Give and pray in secret (6:6)
 - Faith – no Fear (6:25)
 - Judge yourself first, (7:5)
 - Live the Golden Rule (7:12)
- This is the narrow gate and the difficult path.

*On the Broad and Easy Path

- If you're on the broad path, Jesus would say "repent."
- Confess your sin and need to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Step through the narrow gate by faith and begin the adventurous life of traveling the difficult path that leads to life with Jesus Christ!

*On the Narrow and Difficult Path

- Don't become weary in well doing.

- If you're weary on the narrow and difficult path, get refreshed, rejuvenated, and recommit yourself to biblical truth and engage in worship, and re-engage yourself in community.

SUMMARY:

Jesus describes life in Him as the narrow gate, the difficult path in which few will find and journey on.

This narrow gate and difficult path are contrasted with the broad gate and easy path that many enter and travel.

The narrow, hard path leads to life; the broad, easy path leads to destruction.

Jesus says there are two ways we can live our lives. One seems easier, more convenient, and less challenging, while the other is harder, more inconvenient, and more demanding.

The broader way will be more popular, seem more productive, seem easier, and allow for self-gratification, the accumulation of earthly stuff, revenge, getting even, and putting self at the center.

Jesus says that this broad path, which many will travel, will lead to destruction and death. While the narrow, difficult path is the road to life, only a few find it.

The reason few find it is not that it is unavailable, but that it is harder and narrower. It requires us to admit that we are in need and that the need is greater than ourselves. However, it will result in a life of purpose, true fulfillment, love, joy, peace, and hope.

The narrow way is the way, it is Jesus' way, it is the best way, it is the only way.



1

HARBORVIEW FELLOWSHIP

Equipping people to passionately
Live like Jesus lived,
Do what Jesus did, and
Advance His kingdom together.

2

TWO GATES – TWO ROADS

INTRODUCTION



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TWO GATES – TWO ROADS



Matthew 7:13-14 (NKJV) "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

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TWO GATES – TWO ROADS

INTRODUCTION



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TWO GATES – TWO ROADS

THE GATES

Heart Posture - Matthew 5:3-12

Narrow Gate



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TWO GATES – TWO ROADS

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mourn, For they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, For
they shall inherit the earth.*



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TWO GATES – TWO ROADS

THE GATES

Heart Posture - Matthew 5:3-12

Narrow Gate

Broad Gate



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THE GATES THE WAYS

Relational Righteousness - Matthew 5:21-48

The Hard Path

Love Supernaturally



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TWO GATES – TWO ROADS

Matthew 5:21–22 (NKJV) “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.



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THE GATES THE WAYS

Relational Righteousness - Matthew 5:21-48

The Hard Path

Love supernaturally

Refrain from adulterous lust



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TWO GATES – TWO ROADS

Matthew 5:28 (NKJV) But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.



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THE GATES THE WAYS

Relational Righteousness - Matthew 5:21-48

The Hard Path

Love supernaturally

Refrain from adulterous lust

Love, bless, and pray for your enemies.



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TWO GATES – TWO ROADS

Matthew 5:44 (NKJV) But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,



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THE WAYS

Relational Righteousness - Matthew 5:21-48

The Hard Path

Love supernaturally

Refrain from adulterous lust

Love, bless, and pray for your enemies

Be perfect like God



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TWO GATES – TWO ROADS

Matthew 5:45–48 (NKJV) that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. . . . 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.



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THE WAYS

Relational Righteousness - Matthew 5:21-48

The Hard Path

Love supernaturally

Refrain from adulterous lust

Love, bless, and pray for your enemies

Be perfect like God

Daily self-denial



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TWO GATES – TWO ROADS

Luke 9:23 (NKJV) Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."



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The Easy Path

- *Anger as righteous,*
- *Lust as private,*
- *Divorce as freedom,*
- *Oaths as deception,*
- *Revenge as justice—an eye for an eye.*

The Hard Path

- *Do not return evil for evil.*
- *Slapped? Turn the other cheek*
- *Go the extra mile*
- *Give your coat with your shirt*
- *No adulterous lust or murderous anger*



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THE GATES THE WAYS

Relational Righteousness - Matthew 5:21-48

Personal Devotion - Matthew 6:1-18

The Hard Path



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THE GATES THE WAYS

Relational Righteousness - Matthew 5:21-48

Personal Devotion - Matthew 6:1-18

The Hard Path

The Easy Path



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THE GATES THE WAYS

Relational Righteousness - Matthew 5:21-48

Personal Devotion - Matthew 6:1-18

Heavenly Treasures - Matthew 6:19-34

Hard Path

Live in light of eternity, not earthly treasures



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TWO GATES – TWO ROADS

Matthew 6:19–20 (NKJV) “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.



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THE WAYS

Relational Righteousness - Matthew 5:21-48

Personal Devotion - Matthew 6:1-18

Heavenly Treasures - Matthew 6:19-34

Hard Path

Live in light of eternity, not earthly treasures

Serve God only and seek first His kingdom.



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TWO GATES – TWO ROADS

Matthew 6:24 (NKJV) . . . You cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you



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THE WAYS

Relational Righteousness - Matthew 5:21-48

Personal Devotion - Matthew 6:1-18

Heavenly Treasures - Matthew 6:19-34

Humble Judgment and Pursuit - Matthew 7:1-12

Hard Path

Easy Path



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APPLICATION



1. The characteristics of a narrow gate and hard path life.

- Humility and mourn sin (5:4)
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- Give and pray in secret (6:6)
- Faith – no Fear (6:25)
- Judge yourself first, (7:5)
- Live the Golden Rule (7:12)

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APPLICATION



1. The characteristics of a narrow gate and hard path life.

2. If on the broad and easy path – Jesus would say to “repent.”

- *Confess your sin and need to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.*
- *Pass through the narrow gate.*
- *Start the journey with Him.*



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APPLICATION



1. The characteristics of a narrow gate and hard path life.
2. If on the broad and easy path – Jesus would say to “repent.”
3. On the narrow and difficult path – don’t become weary in well doing!
 - *It is the gate and road of life!*
 - *It is the fulfilled life!*

