

Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church – Crockett, Texas

August 31, 2025 – Two Paths: The Narrow and the Wide

Main Passage: Matthew 7:13-14

13 “Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. 14 How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.”

I. Introduction & Illustration

- The choice between an easy, broad path and a difficult, narrow one reflects the decision every person must make about eternal life.

II. The Command to Enter the Narrow Gate

- Jesus’ command is universal — for all people, regardless of background.
- In ancient cities like Jerusalem, some gates were narrow and used rarely, while others were wide and busy.
- Jesus contrasts the narrow gate (difficult, individual, exclusive) with the wide gate (easy, popular, inclusive).
- Scripture References: Matthew 7:13-14; Luke 13:24

III. The Broad Road

- Easy to travel, full of people, no restrictions or requirements.
- Represents the world’s false belief that all roads lead to heaven.
- Travelers include those trusting family heritage, good behavior, personal feelings, worldly success, or selective belief in Scripture.
- The broad road is dangerous because it leads to destruction without warning.
- Scripture References: Proverbs 14:12; John 3:18; Romans 6:23

IV. The Narrow Gate

- Requires personal entry — you can't enter on someone else's faith.
- No baggage allowed — good works, possessions, pride, or anything else must be left behind.
- Illustrated by the rich young ruler in Mark 10:17-23.
- Only through belief and repentance can one enter.
- Exclusive to those in Christ — salvation is found in Jesus alone (Acts 4:12, John 14:6).
- Scripture References: Mark 10:17-23; Acts 4:12; John 14:6

V. The Only Right Answer

- Alistair Begg illustration: The thief on the cross entered because 'The man on the middle cross said I could come.'
- The ticket to heaven is Jesus' finished work, not personal merit.
- Scripture References: Luke 23:39-43; Ephesians 2:8-9

VI. Application

- Examine whether you are trusting anything other than Jesus for salvation.
- Faith in Jesus alone is the ticket to the narrow gate.
- Believers can rest in the assurance that Jesus paid the price and removes all sin and baggage.
- Scripture References: 2 Corinthians 13:5; Hebrews 12:1-2; Romans 8:1

Key Quotes from the Sermon

"The road you choose spiritually will truly make all the difference, not just for this life, but for eternity."

"The broad gate is universal and leads to destruction. The narrow gate is exclusive and leads to life."

"The man on the middle cross said I could come."