

The Narrow Gate

Matthew 7:13–14

Thursday, July 2, 2026

EPISODE SUMMARY

After the warmth of “ask, seek, knock,” Jesus turns honest about the cost. He lays the whole of life out like a fork in the road: two gates, two roads, two destinations. The wide gate opens onto a broad, crowded road that asks nothing of us and ends in destruction. The narrow gate opens onto a hard road that leads to life — and “those who find it are few.” There is no third option; refusing to choose is simply staying on the broad road. But the narrow gate is not a standard we measure up to. It is a person we come to: “I am the gate,” Jesus says. He walked the hardest road to a cross so the gate could stand open, and we enter by his death, not our effort.

KEY THEMES

- Two gates, two roads, two ends — and no third option (v. 13).
- The wide gate is crowded and easy, but “crowded is not the same as safe.”
- The narrow road is genuinely hard — the honest cost of following Jesus (v. 14).
- “Few find it” — sobering realism, yet the word “find” means it can be found.
- The gate is a person: we enter through Christ, not by earning our way in.

KEY SCRIPTURE

“How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.”

— Matthew 7:14, CSB

TAKEAWAY TRUTH

The gate is narrow because there is only one of him — one name under heaven by which we are saved. The way into life did not cost us everything; it cost him everything. He was pressed, squeezed, and crushed under the weight of our sin, and he died so the gate could stand open. We do not earn our way through by living a hard enough life; we come through because of his death — his blood, poured out, is what opens it.

APPLICATION FOR TODAY

So choose the narrow gate. If you have been coasting on the broad road, telling yourself you will deal with the eternal things later, step off it today and come to Christ. And if the road has been hard lately and you have wondered whether you took a wrong turn, hear him: the hard road is the right road. Difficulty is not a sign you have strayed — it is the road to life, and the same Jesus who opened the gate walks every hard mile of it beside you.

SERIES FOCUS

The Sermon on the Mount · Matthew 7 · CT081–CT087