

# **BUILDING BLOCK #4: THE NARROW WAY**

**Pastor Chad Gilligan | May 28, 2023**

## **I. FIVE IMPORTANT TRUTHS ABOUT THE NARROW GATE**

**Matthew 7:13-14 (New International Version)** Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

**Matthew 7:13-14 (New Living Translation)** You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. <sup>14</sup> But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

### **1. *All Roads Do Not Lead To God***

- **The world says there are many roads.**
- **The Bible says there is just one road.**

**John 14:6** Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Acts 4:12** Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

**1 Timothy 2:5** For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,

**Matthew 7:13-14 (English Standard Version)** Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

### **2. *Following Jesus Is Not Always Easy***

- **Following Jesus will cost you**
- **Following Jesus will alienate you**

**Matthew 5:11-12** Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Matthew 7:13-14 (The Message)** Don't look for shortcuts to God. The market is flooded with surefire, easygoing formulas for a successful life that can be practiced in your spare time. Don't fall for that stuff, even though crowds of people do. <sup>14</sup> The way to life—to God!—is vigorous and requires total attention.

### ***3. The Crowd Is Not Always Right***

- **There is a way that seems right.**

**Proverbs 14:12** There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

**Proverbs 14:12 (The Message)** There's a way of life that looks harmless enough; look again—it leads straight to hell.

- **There is a way that is right.**

**Proverbs 1:15-18** my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths; 16 for their feet rush into evil, they are swift to shed blood. <sup>17</sup> How useless to spread a net where every bird can see it! <sup>18</sup> These men lie in wait for their own blood; they ambush only themselves!

**Matthew 7:13-14 (Amplified)** Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad and easy to travel is the path that leads the way to destruction and eternal loss, and there are many who enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow and difficult to travel is the path that leads the way to [everlasting] life, and there are few who find it.

### ***4. The Decision Is Simple, But It Is Not Easy***

- **The decision is simple: Destruction or Life.**

**Jeremiah 21:8** Furthermore, tell the people, “This is what the LORD says: See, I am setting before you the way of life and the way of death.”

- **The journey is not easy.**

**Matthew 7:13-14 (New International Version)** Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

## 5. You Must Make A Choice

*“To recapitulate, there are according to Jesus only two ways, hard and easy (there is no middle way), entered by two gates, broad and narrow (there is no other gate), trodden by two crowds, large and small (there is no neutral group), ending in two destinations, destruction and life (there is no third alternative). It is hardly necessary to comment that such talk is extremely unfashionable today. People like to be uncommitted. Every opinion poll allows not only for a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer, but for a convenient ‘don’t know’. Men are lovers of Aristotle and of his golden mean. The most popular path is the via media. To deviate from the middle way is to risk being dubbed an ‘extremist’ or a ‘fanatic’. Everybody resents being faced with the necessity of a choice. But Jesus will not allow us to escape it.” — John Stott*

- **Everyone must go through some gate.**

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20** See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. <sup>16</sup> For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live <sup>20</sup> and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

- **Not to choose is to make a choice.**
- **Which road will you choose?**