

The Narrow Path!

Matthew 7:12-14

Big Idea: Persevere in doing good unto others.

¹² "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. ¹³ "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. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. (Mt 7:12-14)

Big Idea: Persevere in doing good unto others.

The Narrow Gate!

1. Doing good is keeping the law (v. 12).
2. Enter by the narrow gate (vv. 13-14).
3. Stay on the narrow path (vv. 13-14).

1. Doing good == keeping the law.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets ... ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven ... ^{7:12} So, whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (vv. 5:17-20; 7:12).

Instead of focusing on a list of commands, do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Do unto others!

- i. Not a prohibition, but a call to action.
- ii. Instead of waiting for the opportunity, make the opportunity!
- iii. Doing good is based on God's love, not ours/theirs.

Jesus explains doing unto others.

- i. Make things right with your brother (vv. 5:23-24).
- ii. Focus on your marriage (vv. 5:27-30).
- iii. Let your yes be yes and your no be no (vv. 5:33-37).
- iv. Forgive (vv. 5:38-42).
- v. Love your enemies (vv. 5:43-48).

“¹² So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” (v. 12)

3 Ways to get better at doing good.

- i. Be aware of your surroundings.
- ii. Ask yourself, what would help me?
- iii. Take a proactive approach to good deeds.

2. Enter by the narrow gate (vv. 13-14).

¹³ "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. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

One way to Heaven: Jesus.

- i. The gate is narrow (v. 13).
- ii. Jesus is the gate (John 10:7-10).
- iii. Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14:6).

3. Stay on the narrow path (vv. 13-14).

¹³ "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. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

God knows the difficulty of the path.

- i. He sent the Holy Spirit (the Helper; Jn 14:16-17).
- ii. He gave us churches/leaders/pastors (Eph 4:11f).
- iii. 100+ 'one another' passages teach us we need each other.

Two way to live and the choice is yours.

- i. One way that leads to perdition (v. 13b).
- ii. The other way leads to salvation (v. 14).

If you've entered by the narrow gate,
stay on the narrow path.