

Sermon on the Mount Sermon Notes - Part 25 Title: The Narrowing Road July 20th, 2025

Main Scriptures: Matthew 7:13-14, 26:6-13; 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Main Idea: The road we choose doesn't just determine our destination—it shapes who

we become.

1. Gates Matter (Matthew 7:13-14)

- In biblical times, gates were places of decision, justice, and public life
- A narrow gate was intentional—provided protection—ex: Abraham's Gate



2. Biblical "Gate" Imagery

- Proverbs 8-9—Lady Wisdom & Lady Folly standing at their gates, calling out to those passing by
- The first "gate" is in the Garden of Eden—Genesis 3:24
 - God placed cherubim and a flaming sword to guard the path back to the tree of life
 - → The only way back to the tree of life is **through Jesus**.
- 3. Two Roads, Two Journeys (Matthew 7:13-14)
 - These verses are more about the direction we travel than the destination.
 - Wide road: crowded, easy, leads to ruin.
 - Narrow road: compressed, leads to life—but it presses us.
 - → The narrow road not only leads to life, but **it forms and shapes us** along the way to reflect the heart of God.

4. Greek Insight (Matthew 7:13-14)

- (7:13-14) Stenos = narrow (the small gate)
- (7:14) *Thlibo* = pressed, afflicted, squeezed (by the road itself)
- Like a watermelon under pressure—we're pressed, but not crushed
 - Acts 14:21-22 Thlibo = hardships
 - o 2 Corinthians 4:7-9 "hard pressed (thlibo)" but "not crushed"
- The narrow path forms us into a Beatitude people (Matthew 5:3-12)
- → The wisdom of God often looks like foolishness to the world. His ways seem upside-down. Backward. Even **wasteful**.

5. The Road Jesus Walked

- Jesus was broken and poured out—like the alabaster jar (Matthew 26:6-13)
- The narrow road includes suffering—but it is **not a waste**
- Jesus chose to walk the narrow road first, so that we could walk it with Him
- → Jesus' suffering is what makes our journey with Him possible. We enter the small gate, and He walks the narrow road with us... as one who **understands**.

6. Reflection Questions:

- What road am I walking—and how is it forming me?
- Where am I feeling pressed right now—and how is God shaping me through it?

7. Digging Deeper

 Bible Project Podcast Sermon on the Mount Series, Episode 34 - Youtube or bibleproject.com