



# The Narrow Gate (Matthew 7:13–14)

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“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. “Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (Matthew 7:13–14)

# The Narrow Gate

The Lord Christ refers to *the narrow gate*. The other gate must be the wide gate. The Lord advises us to enter by the narrow gate. The wide gate is easy but leads to destruction. The narrow gate is difficult but leads to life.

Through which of these two gates do you plan to enter? Which would you choose—life or death? Life or destruction? Those who are faithful to God, enter through the narrow gate.

## Father Abraham

Father Abraham was settled and living among his family and the Chaldeans. But God commanded him to leave his family and follow Him. It was very difficult to follow Him, but he did. The Lord promised him that He would take him to the land of milk and honey. He trusted in the Lord's promises.

Many things in the Way of the Lord are difficult: fasting, repentance, stopping sin. It is difficult to stop bad habits (lust, pride, drugs, etc.), but this is the narrow gate.

We trust in the Lord and obey His words. Father Abraham did it! He is the father of many nations. The Lord glorified him so much that Paradise is described as “the bosom of Father Abraham.”

## **Joseph the Righteous**

To live a pure life is difficult. Joseph the Righteous lived honestly even though it was difficult. He resisted the temptation from Potiphar's wife and obeyed the Lord. He did not yield to the pressure around him. He continued his faithfulness to God. He entered through the narrow gate. He said, "I will keep myself Holy for the Lord. I prefer to enter the narrow gate and live eternally." He was subjected to many other trials, the pit, the prison, his brothers' betrayal. He was saved from prison and became the Second Man of Egypt. His wise but difficult choices saved the whole known world. His wise but difficult choices led down the path through the narrow gate. He rejected sin. At the end his father Jacob gave him one of the tribes of Israel. Let us imitate him and make choices as the Lord would have us make and enter the narrow gate.

## **Paul the Apostle**

The Lord Christ stopped Saul Paul on the road to Damascus. The Lord showed him how much he would suffer for the sake of His Name. The Lord glorified him and gave him life. The Lord sent Paul to Ananias who taught him the Way of the Lord and baptized him. On his missions, Paul suffered huge trials for the Lord, but he never wavered. He remained on the path through the narrow gate. It was difficult, but he stayed the course.

# **The Narrow Gate**

It is difficult to follow the ways of God. Loving our enemies is difficult. Forgiving another for doing wrong to us is not easy. But we need to trust in the Lord's commandments. We need to choose the narrow gate. The Lord Himself forgave those who crucified Him. "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

## **The Narrow Gate**

- Trust in His Word.
- Obey His commandments.
- Live the life of love—which is not easy.

# **Refuseniks**

Some people refuse to enter the narrow gate; they prefer a life of easiness. I say whatever I want, I have bad desires to satisfy myself with what is around me.

## **The Rich Young Man**

The rich young man came to the Lord and asked what he should do to enter the Kingdom. He refused the words of the Lord to enter the narrow gate which was to sell his riches and to give to the poor. He went away sad and did not obey the Lord's commandment.

## **Judas Iscariot**

Judas was entrusted to be the treasurer of the disciples. He was a thief and stole money. The love of money led him one day to sell his master for 30 silver coins. He lost all faith and hope and committed suicide. The wide gate led him to betrayal, suicide, and perdition. His end was destruction, death, and condemnation.

## **Cain**

Another example was Cain. He killed his brother Abel because of anger and jealousy. He could have asked the help of the Lord. Oh Lord give me power and give me energy to do the right thing. But Cain did not do this.

## **Make Wise Choices**

Follow all the Lord's commandments and obey His word and you will enter into the narrow gate.

In this time of fasting ask the Lord to help us to make wise choices and be prepared to enter into the narrow gate.