

SERMON PASSAGE GUIDE

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This Week's Passage

¹³ "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴ For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it. ¹⁵ "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? ¹⁷ So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ So then, you will know them by their fruits. ²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. ²² Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'



Prepare Your Heart & Mind

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.

Reflect/Connect

Use these questions to reflect privately in prayer or journal, or to start a meaningful conversation in your Life Group.

- Think about a time when doing the right thing meant standing alone or going against the crowd. What made that choice so difficult?
- When evaluating a leader, an influencer, or even a friend, what are the "tells" that reveal whether their character actually matches their public persona? How do you apply those same standards to your own life?

Grow in the Word

These questions are designed to guide your personal study, or spark spiritual conversation in your Life Group.

Jesus begins the conclusion of His sermon by contrasting two gates and two paths: one wide and easy that leads to destruction and is entered by many, and one narrow and difficult that leads to life and is found by few (v. 13-14).

- In the context of the Sermon on the Mount, what does the “narrow” path seem to involve in terms of how a person actually lives? Consider also Deuteronomy 30:19-20; Matthew 5:20.
- What makes the wide path attractive to many people, and why might the narrow path be harder to find and follow?
- Where do you see subtle pressures in your life or culture that pull you toward what is easy or widely accepted rather than what Jesus teaches?

Jesus continues with a sobering warning, addressing the danger of false prophets who appear harmless outwardly but are inwardly dangerous, explaining that they are recognized by their fruit. He then describes a future moment where people who confidently call Him “Lord” and point to their spectacular ministry works will be rejected. Jesus declares that He “never knew” those who practiced lawlessness, emphasizing that entry into the kingdom belongs only to those who do the will of the Father (v. 15-23).

- Based on Jesus’ teaching throughout the Sermon on the Mount, what kinds of “fruit” would indicate a life aligned with God’s kingdom?
- Why does Jesus describe these impressive spiritual activities as “lawlessness” when they are disconnected from doing the Father’s will?
- How does Jesus’ statement, “I never knew you”, shift the focus of the Christian life from outward religious performance to relational intimacy and wholehearted obedience? Read 1 John 2:3-4.

Practice Together

This section offers a simple way to live out the truths of the passage in everyday life, whether you're with your Life Group, family & friends, or on your own. These practices help turn reflection into relationship & action.

- Take time this week to prayerfully examine the overall direction of your life, asking God to reveal whether you are walking the way that leads to life or drifting toward the wide path of the surrounding culture.
- Identify one area of your life where obedience to Jesus’ teachings in this Sermon is clear but challenging, and take a concrete step to do the will of the Father in that area this week.

