

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ.

Are you narrow minded? Do your friends think you are not very flexible? Are you opinionated? When it comes to the things of Jesus, this is a good thing... And on Sunday we will discuss why.

Our Gospel text for Sunday has Jesus talking about the narrow door and what it takes to be narrow minded. In Luke 13, he says, ²³ *And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, ²⁴ "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.*

This is a theme for Jesus as he ushers in the Kingdom of God. He talks about this narrow mindedness As Jesus brings his Sermon on the Mount to a close in Matthew 7, He begins with travelers along two chosen pathways. We can enter the narrow gate, leading to a narrow road, or we can travel through a wide gate that leads to a broad road:

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." (Matthew 7:13-14)

He then presents his listeners with paired and contrasting choices: wise building vs. foolish building, true disciples vs. false disciples.

Where are we at on this road? At the risk of sounding an alarm, it is a challenging question. Can we say, without a shadow of a doubt, that we are on the right path? Life offers us two gates leading to two kinds of roads. Our choices lead to two different ways of travel. But the narrow path looks different. It comes with hard choices and sacrifices. It challenges our comfort, and if we take Jesus at His word, and if we think He is serious in what He says, then this kind of scriptural teaching and challenge allows us to reflect on our journey, and no matter where we are at, take us to the path we are called to be on.

We will always default to the path of less resistance, but that path is wide and full of danger

and destruction. As we look to point people to Jesus, are we pointing them to the right path?

We get to choose.

Join me this Sunday as we wrestle with the choice of which path to take and see where Jesus is leading us.

God Loves you and so do I,
Pastor Jay