

FOLLOW THE NARROW ROAD

In the time of Jesus's ministry, cities would have wide gates for entry from a main road that would be wide and where most traffic entered. There would also be other ways, more like doors, to enter through the city walls and the narrow paths leading to them were more bumpy and harder to travel on. This was something the current listeners could relate to.

Jesus is using this example of easy access versus harder access to make the point about following Him being harder than going with the flow.

Matthew 7:13-14 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.

Entering the wide gate comes from following the ways of the world.

We all begin on the wide road.

Ephesians 2:1-3 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

The narrow path leads to the narrow gate (Jesus).

John 10:9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.

We get on the narrow path by our faith in Jesus through God's grace.

The Bible tells us the narrow path leading to the narrow gate (eternal salvation) is harder to stay on than the wide road. This is partly because many who choose to follow the wide road that leads to our destruction are not aware that destruction is waiting for them.

As Christians we need to strive to stay on the narrow path, and to make others aware of the different places the wide road and the narrow path will take us.

Eternity awaits for both the righteous and the un-righteous.

Thoughts by John Oliver
a grateful and unworthy servant