

DEEPER LIFE BIBLE CHURCH NL | SUNDAY SERMON | 26 OCT 2025

HE BROAD WAY AND THE NARROW WAY

Matthew 7:13,14; Luke 13:23-27

Bible Reading: Matthew 7:1-29; Lue 13:1-35

The world is not occupied with thoughts of eternity. They are rather **“buying and selling, marrying and giving in marriage”** (Luke 17:26-30). It is sad when Church members are also not busy with eternity. Some profess to love Jesus, but they have not given up their worldly lifestyle. They are afraid/ashamed to take up their cross and follow the Master; they love the praise of man more than the approval of God. They come to Church to palliate their conscience; but the question of living for Christ alone, is not resolved. Where do you stand?

THE SIGNIFICANT DISTINCTION Matthew 7:13,14

The wide gate knows no restriction. Repentance or restitution is unnecessary. You do not have to offload pride, love of money, worldliness, etc. It is compatible with earthly lifestyle. The gate is wide enough to take professors of salvation who still curse, lie, fight, jest, gamble, backbite, practise sex outside marriage, etc. They profess to know God but deny Him in works. They sing about the city of gold but deny the golden principle. They hear what Jesus says but do not do it (Mat 7:26,27; 2 Tim 3:5; Tit 1:16; 2 Pet 2:14,15,19,20; Jude 16,19). But the strait gate indicates control or check. Credentials will be checked. Only holy people will go through. The pathway is narrow: it does not allow excess luggage. It demands focus and watchfulness. You must bow low and walk in the light. You must do what Jesus says. You need God's grace to qualify and remain (Mat 7:21,24,25; Mark 10:21-28; Luke 14:25-27; Acts 20:20,21; 1 Cor 10:12-14; 1 Tim 6:10-12).

THE SURE DEMARCATION Matthew 7:13,14; Luke 13:23-27

The narrow way and the broad way lead to different destinations. Life teaches us that we reap what we sow, yet some people think that the issue of heaven is different. If we are the God's image, why should we think that God will act irrationally? If we would not honour a robber or promote a drunkard to eminent places, why should we assume God would elevate someone to heaven who in lifetime lived in sin? The broad way is, **one**, popular (Exo 23:2; 1 Kgs 22:13). **“Many there be which go in thereat.”** The sensual singer who sings about Jesus but lives in uncleanness. The fornicator or adulterer who sheds tears at God's altar at Sunday service only to return to his/her sin-partner thereafter. The swindler who cheats others or owes without paying, the husband who oppresses the wife, wife who despises the husband, or member who rebels against leaders, yet they all sing “Amazing grace”. Etc. They are all there. **Two**, this way is pleasurable (Job 21:7-15; 2 Pet 2:14). It comforts the soul with Bible verses while living in sin. “After all,” they say, “if God would mark iniquity, who can stand?” They have forgotten that he who commits sin is of the devil; they do not reason that God will not allow rebels to dwell in His holy hill. They use God's word to suit their end and assume they will be spared on the judgement day. But **three**, it is perilous (Pro 16:25; Mat 7:22,23,27). It leads to destruction, to hell.

On the other hand, the narrow way is, **one**, hidden (Mat 7:8; Jer 6:16; Heb 11:6). **“Few there be that find it.”** Only those who seek it will find it. Only those who deliberately choose it and make it their top priority will find it. It is not advertised on many pulpits. It is not described in modern religious catalogues. You only find it in ancient religious “shops” and old spiritual manuals and journals. **Two**, it is holy (Isa 35:8; Heb 12:14-17; 1 Pet 1:13-16). It does not fit with the popular idea of a God who sits down smiling without looking at the lifestyle of His creatures. It is the highway of holiness. But **three**, it is heavenly (Mat 24:11-13; 5:8). It leads to life and eternal bliss. This is the great demarcation. This is the great divergence. This is the great divide. The broad way leads to hell; the narrow way leads to heaven. Where do you stand?

THE SERIOUS DECISION Matthew 7:13; Luke 13:23,24

“Enter ye in at the strait gate...” “Strive to enter in at the strait gate...” There could hardly be any greater decision in life than about eternity. You must come to terms with God's requirement and make up your mind. Are you a member or minister or visitor in this Church? You must be serious about heaven. The whole import of Jesus' life and ministry is to lead you to heaven. To go through the notions of religion without settling the basic question of eternity is to live in self-deception. True religion is no status symbol or decoration for the body; it is serious eternal business that takes the force of personal decision and focus. You may see many people around who seem to live only for here and now; but wisdom demands that you choose to make your life here a sure preparation for the life hereafter (Pro 1:10; 1 Cor 6:9-20; Rev 22:11-17). Where do you stand?