

Bible Study



**A difficult way and a
narrow gate**

Matthew 7:13-14

6/7 April 2016



A difficult way and a narrow gate

“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





A difficult way and a narrow gate

- Jesus confronts His listeners with the choice of a life with or without God.



Bible Reading

Matthew 7:13-27:

Matthew 7:13-27 is a series of admonishments to take seriously what has been taught in 5:17-7:12.





The wide versus the narrow gate

- The image of the narrow gate used by Jesus is borrowed from the architecture of walled cities at the time.
- If a human being desires to gain access to the kingdom of God, it will not be comfortable or easy. He/she must bow down.
- The dangers of wealth - complacency and arrogance (cf. Matthew 19: 24).





The broad versus the narrow way

- The narrower the way, the more care must be taken ... The broad way, by contrast, is characterized by carelessness, thoughtlessness, and superficiality.
- Followers of Jesus are to walk along the difficult way:
 - they must pay heed to the doctrine of Jesus,
 - not be thoughtless with regard to their neighbour, and
 - gladly fulfil the will and laws of God (*Psalms 40: 8*).





The way to the gate of heaven

- How does one gain access the kingdom of God? By a genuine renewal of the spirit, as Jesus taught.
- Jesus Himself only encountered very few in Israel who believed in Him. He stated, “... and there are few who find it.”
- Let us therefore dedicate our lives to pursuing this way persistently until we reach our goal.



Call-Up





Summary

Human beings have the choice of a life with or without God. They must decide for the narrow gate and the difficult way, meaning

- they must be able to humble themselves before the almighty, omniscient, and ever-present God. They must be able to subordinate their will to His.
- they must pay heed to the teaching of Jesus, must not be thoughtless with regard to their neighbour, and must gladly fulfil the law of God.





Message

Without effort it is impossible
for human beings to make
their way to God.



Preparation for the forgiveness of sins and Holy Communion

