

The Narrow Way of Jesus

Thursdays, 7:30pm, September 19 - October 3, 2019
Contact info: Phillip Shumake, 859-537-8142 phillipshumake@gmail.com

Lesson 1: Jesus Calls Us To Choose The Narrow Way

Responding to Jesus

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus confronted the hypocrisy and selfishness of His day. He highlighted God's loving and caring nature, and He called for His followers to live with humility, righteousness, and mercy. *According to Matthew 7:13-14 what can we learn about the two ways people will respond:*

	<i>The Broad Way</i>	<i>The Narrow Way</i>
<i>The Gate:</i>	_____	_____
<i>The Destination:</i>	_____	_____
<i>The Popularity:</i>	_____	_____

What does it mean that Jesus' way is narrow and leads to life? (Luke 13:24)

What does the Bible teach about choosing a way that leads to death?
(2 Thessalonians 1:6-10, Matthew 25:26-30, Matthew 25:41-46)

The Narrow Way Leads Out of Darkness & Into Light.

The Narrow Way is Jesus' plan to rescue us. *According to Ephesians 2:1-3, what is the spiritual condition of people before they begin following Jesus?*

- Without Jesus, we are _____. (Eph 2:1)
- Without Jesus, we are _____. (Eph 2:2)
- Without Jesus, we are _____. (Eph 2:3)

God doesn't want any of us to be lost. In His rich mercy and great love, He sent Christ so that we can be... (Ephesians 2:4-7)

Vs. 5 – We can be _____

Vs. 5 – We can be saved by _____

Vs. 6 – We can be in _____

The Narrow Way Requires Faith: Galatians 3:26-27

Jesus wants us to do more than follow a set of moral teachings. He wants us to actually follow Him. *What does it really mean to follow Jesus with faith?*

John 10:7-10 _____

John 14:6 _____

John 20:24-31 _____

The Narrow Way Requires Study: Acts 17:11

In Acts 18:26, what did Apollos learn?

If we want to know more about the narrow way of Jesus, what should our study habits look like? (1 Timothy 4:15-16, 2 Timothy 2:15)

The Narrow Way Requires Transformation: Romans 12:1-2

The Bible shows people making major changes and leaving a variety of dead-end paths. *We can choose to follow Jesus, instead of:*

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 _____

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 _____

2 Timothy 4:1-8 _____

The Narrow Way is challenging. *What most motivates you to choose the Narrow Way of Jesus?*

Next Week ... **The Narrow Way Determines How I Live.**

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Lesson 2: The Narrow Way Determines How I Live

Will We Live An Honorable Life?

In Acts 24:22-27 the apostle Paul stands trial before Felix, a Roman governor of Judea in about 52 AD. Felix was familiar with the Way of Jesus, so Paul spoke to him about “righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come...” These three important traits should be carefully considered by everyone who wants to walk in the Narrow Way of Jesus.

The Narrow Way Leads Me Into Righteousness

What is *righteousness*? _____

- According to Romans 6:3-4, 11, a person buried with Christ in baptism should consider themselves “_____ to _____ but _____ to _____ in Christ Jesus.”
- According to Romans 6:12-13, a person buried with Christ in baptism will present themselves as an “_____ of righteousness.”

How does a disciple of Jesus develop a righteous character?

- Colossians 3:5-17 _____

How does a disciple respond to the sins all around us today?

- Ephesians 5:1-11 _____

The Narrow Way Leads Me Into Self-Control

In the Narrow Way, I must take sin seriously and refuse to give into

temptations. *Based on the following verses, what practices does God condemn, but our culture urges us to accept or participate in?*

Galatians 5:19-21 _____

Romans 1:25-32 _____

Satan would love for Christians to abandon their self-control and return to the broad way of destruction. What warnings does Peter give in 2 Peter 2:20-22 to help Christians internalize the significance of these choices?

The Narrow Way Leads Me Into Hope on The Day of Judgment

What facts should everyone know about the Day of Judgment?

- 2 Corinthians 5:9-10 _____
- John 12:48 _____

Given the approaching day of Judgment, how did Paul determine to live? (Philippians 3:7-16)

The Narrow Way Requires Humility & Decisiveness

In Acts 24, Felix was unwilling to follow the Narrow Way of Jesus, even though he was well taught by Paul. If we are to have a better response, both humility and decisiveness will be necessary.

How can pride & procrastination keep us from walking in the Narrow Way?

Who can we look to for help, when making these decisive changes?

Next Week ... **The Narrow Way Determines How I Worship.**

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Lesson 3: The Narrow Way Determines How I Worship

In The Narrow Way, We Are Not Alone.

Jesus' sermon on the mount shows us two types of threats to walking in the narrow way. *The first is personal sin, but what other danger does Jesus also warn us about? (Matthew 7:15-23)*

God not only saves us from our sins, He also adds us to His church. What is the function and purpose of bringing us together with other Christians?

- Hebrews 10:24 _____
- 2 Timothy 2:22 _____

The Narrow Way Is Christ-Centered.

Jesus is the cornerstone of His church. He taught this in Matthew 21:42 as a fulfillment of Psalm 118:22. The apostles also confirmed this role for Jesus in Ephesians 2:20. *Why is this role significant?*

What practices will be true of a Christ-Centered church...

- In our conduct: _____ (1 Timothy 3:15)
- In our name: _____ (Romans 16:16)
- In our loyalty: _____ (1 Cor. 1:10-17)
- In our memorial: _____ (Acts 20:7, 1 Cor 11)

The Narrow Way Unites Good Doctrine & Good Works.

It's easy to become polarized and emphasize only doctrine or only works of

compassion, but the churches of Galatia were taught that these are both connected. *What should we do to uphold the value of both?*

- Galatians 1:6-10 _____
- Galatians 6:9-10 _____

The Narrow Way Is Alert To False Teachings Today.

In 2 Peter 2:1-3, what did Peter say would happen over time as the influence of false teachers grew?

Although many churches today have departed from the teachings of the Bible, *what should be practiced by those walking in the Narrow Way?*

In our praise _____ (Eph. 5:19, Heb. 13:15)

In our leadership _____ (1 Tim. 3:1-13)

In our fellowship _____ (Matthew 18:15-17)

In our marriages _____ (Matthew 19:3-9)

The Narrow Way Is Still Available.

In spite of so many departures from the Narrow Way, what does Paul urge us to do if we want to walk with Jesus? (Philippians 3:17-21)

Applications & Actions:

- How important is it to me to live in the Narrow Way of Jesus?
- How did people begin their walk in the Narrow Way in Acts 2:38?
- How important is it for a church to be Christ-centered in all of its teachings and practices?
- Am I worshipping and serving with a local church whose practices adhere to the Narrow Way?