



“The Narrow Road”

Sun May 7, 2023

I. **Matthew 7:13-14**

A. The Road...

1. Have you ever noticed that there are only 2 choices?
 - * The Wide Road (Most people are on this road...follow the crowd?)
 - * The Narrow Road (A different direction all together...follow the crowd or find Jesus?)
2. **Deuteronomy 30:19**
3. Message Bible: *“Don’t look for shortcuts to God. The market is flooded with surefire, easygoing formulas for a successful life that can be practiced in your spare time. Don’t fall for that stuff, even though crowds of people do. The way to life...to God...is vigorous and required total attention.”*

B. Finding the Shepherd

1. **Psalms 23:1-4**

- *The Lord is MY Shepherd* (The Difference in Knowing Jesus as Savior and Making Him your LORD).
- *He Leads me in the paths of Righteousness* (This is the key to understanding the Narrow Road – **Righteousness: what is true, what is right, what is good, what is just**). This path is not physical, but spiritual (How does God lead? By His Spirit joined with yours...His gentle voice); We also know that this is spiritual because of the comparison of the very next verse – vs. 4
- *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death....”* (This is what surrounds us physically...we may walk in this world, but we should not BE OF THIS WORLD & THE WORLD SHOULD NOT BE A PART OF US!)

2. Hold Fast and Hearken Not to the voice of the stranger!

II. Knowing your enemy

A. **The Process**

1. Thinking....Believing....Actions...Results

- Satan wants everyone to think the same way....Be afraid, be confused, be weak.....BE DUMB! (**Hosea 4:6**). This is the wide path!
- When you find the narrow road, you think different, you believe different, you act different....and the results...DIFFERENT!

2. Back to what we said earlier: Paths of Righteousness (true, right, good, just).

Philippians 4:8

- **THINK...THINK...THINK!**
- *If you don’t like feeling the way everyone else feels, if you don’t like having what everyone else has, choose the only other choice available (narrow road) and find life!*

3. Come out from among them – ***II Corinthians 6:17*** (Separate – Set off by a boundary). The message in the church has been sidestepping the real truth: Jesus did not come to bring peace to this world; He came to separate the real from the fake...the chosen from the called....Jesus came to find someone much different from followers; He came to find disciples of faith! (***Matthew 10:34-36***).
- B. How Do I know I am on the narrow road? (You will know!)
1. ***Persecution (II Timothy 3:12, Luke 6:22-23, vs. 26)***
 - Persecution within the family
 - Persecution within the church (the devil has no greater joy than to watch other “Christians” attack “Christians”).
 2. ***Less people....Less family.... Less friends***
 3. ***Out-of-this-world Peace***
 - *It’s something that is not easily explained with words (peace that passes all understanding)*
 - *Do you know why? It’s the Shepherd’s peace!*