

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, Nov. 21, 2021

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 54. The Narrow Way – Matthew 7:13-14

Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction: With verse 12 of chapter 7 we come to the end of the principles being preached in this Sermon on the Mount. The verses that follow to the conclusion of chapter 7 give us Jesus' application of the Sermon and warnings to examine ourselves for fruit and things that give evidence, that manifest the Christian life. MLJ said of Christ and this Sermon, "His object in this Sermon is to bring Christian people to realize first of all their true nature, their character as a people, and then to show them how they are to manifest that nature and character in their daily life."

- I. The Broad Way – vs. 13
 - A. Wide – Luke 8:6-7, 13-14
 - 1. Easy to Find
 - 2. Easy to Believe
 - 3. Easy to Walk
 - B. Broad – 1 Peter 4:3-5
 - 1. Inclusive – many find it, mass appeal
 - 2. Compromises Allowed and Encouraged
 - C. Destruction – 2 Thess. 1:6-12
- II. The Straight Gate – vs. 14
 - A. Narrow
 - 1. Exclusive – John 14:6
 - 2. Inaccessible/Impossible without Faith – Heb. 11:6
 - B. Difficult
 - 1. Uncompromising – Luke 9:62
 - 2. Requiring Endurance to the End
 - a. Temptation – James 1:12
 - b. Suffering and Grief – 1 Peter 2:19
 - c. Hatred – Mark 13:13
 - C. Few Who Find It – Matt. 22:14
 - 1. Laborers are Few – Matt. 9:37
 - 2. Who then can be saved? – Matt. 19:25-26
 - D. Life
 - 1. Eternal – John 10:27-29
 - 2. Abundant – John 10:10
 - 3. Full of Joy – Psalms 16:9-11
- III. The Narrow Way is Christ
 - A. The Captain of Our Salvation – Heb. 2:10
 - B. The Door – John 10:1-10
 - C. The Way – John 14:6
 - 1. One must know Jesus – John 6:69; 17:3
 - 2. One must believe Jesus – John 1:12; 3:14-21
 - 3. One must obey Jesus – Luke 6:46; John 14:15
- IV. "Are There Few Who Are Saved?" – Luke 13:22-29
 - A. Do You Have Assurance? – Romans 8:16
 - B. Do You Have Evidence? – Romans 8:23
 - 1. Proof of Life – repentance and faith
 - 2. Fruit – be-attitudes
 - C. Today is the Day of Salvation – Heb. 3:12-15

Cross References

Luke 8:6-7

6 Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it.

Luke 8:13-14

13 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. 14 Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

1 Peter 4:3-5

3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. 4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. 5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-12

6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed. 11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, 12 that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Hebrews 11:6

6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Luke 9:62

62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

James 1:12

12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

1 Peter 2:19

19 For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.

Mark 13:13

13 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Matthew 22:14

14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."

Matthew 9:37

37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

Matthew 19:25-26

25 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" 26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

John 10:27-29

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

John 10:10

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Psalms 16:9-11

9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. 10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Hebrews 2:10

10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

John 10:1-10

10 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not

know the voice of strangers.” 6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them. 7 Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 6:69

69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

John 14:15

15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Luke 13:22-29

22 And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. 23 Then one said to Him, “Lord, are there few who are saved?” And He said to them, 24 “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25 When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open for us,’ and He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know you, where you are from,’ 26 then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.’ 27 But He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.’ 28 There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. 29 They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God.

Romans 8:16

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Romans 8:23

23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

Hebrews 3:12-15

12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, 15 while it is said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”