



May 25th, 2025

Sermon: A New Way Part 3: Narrow and Wide Gate

Main text: Matthew 7:13-14

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does this story tell me about God?

2. What does this story tell me about people (or about myself)?

3. If this is God's word for my life, how will I obey it?

4. Who am I, going to tell?

Key points, questions and quotes to reflect on and discuss from Ryan's message:

We will look at 3 different images or metaphors:

Today's Image or Metaphor is... (Each image is a choice. Life or Ruin).

1). Narrow and Wide Gate...

Are you influenced by the crowd?

Data shows that society is infused by: **Peer reviews, social proof** or **Trends**.

25-40% Strongly conform under direct social pressure.

60-80% are influenced in subtle indirect ways where social identity is at stake.

Are you the crowd? Or are you the individual?

Jesus describes these two images from Matthew 7:13-14... Wide gate and Narrow gate.

"The Power of the metaphor is the Way not the gate." The gate you go through will lead you to a direction in your life.

"You are going to choose a gate." Jesus wants us to know the narrow path that is my way my gate.

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From Didache writings...

There are two ways, one of life and one of death, and there is a great difference between the two ways. Now this is the way of life: first, "you shall love God, who made you;" and "whatever you do not wish to happen to you, do not do to another". (Did. 1:1-2)

"There are two ways, one of life and one of death, and there is a great difference between the two ways."

When Jesus is explaining about a road/path leading to destruction he is explaining this...

"The term "destruction" in the original Greek (apoleia) often refers to final ruin or loss-not annihilation."

A Contrast Luke 13:22-25 with Matthew 7:13-24.

Luke 13:22-35... Ryan explains the difference from the Luke passage and the Matthew passage. Is that the Luke passage does not have gates it gives us no path. Whereas the Matthew 7:13-14 has gates and has a path. **(Please read each passage to see Ryan's point)**

A great quote explaining the narrow path... **"I am persuaded that this (narrow way) is the way for which we were made. It is the Kingdom prepared for us from the foundations of the world.' Note, 'from the foundation of the world'- it is not an afterthought imposed on life, rather it is written in the very constitution of things, in the very makeup of the universe." (E. Stanley Jones)**

What are your thoughts about what Pastor Ryan shared regarding the stats in the UK amongst Gen Z?

He explained that monthly church attendance among Gen Z (18–24-year-olds) has quadrupled over the past six years—from 4% in 2016 to 16% in 2024. Young men, in particular, are leading this shift, with 21% now attending church regularly, up from just 4% in 2018. In fact, one in four young males in the UK now attends church.

I encourage all of you, as a small groups, to pray that God would draw the next generation to Himself. Pray that what is happening in the UK would also happen here at Southview, in Calgary, and across all of Canada. Ask God how He might be calling you to be part of this move of God here at Southview.