***The Sermon on the Mount***

**Enter by the Narrow Gate; Matthew 7:13-14**

1. **Enter, Imperative Command (You must enter)**
	* **Enter What?**
		+ **The Kingdom, Matthew 5:20, 6:33, 7:21, 18:1-5, 19:21-26, 23:13**
	* **Why?**
		+ **Metaphor for Salvation, Luke 13:22-29**
		+ **If you do not enter you are not saved**
	* **How?**
		+ **Matthew 7:21: Those who do “the will of My Father.”**
		+ **Believing in Jesus is the will of the Father, John 6:28-29**
		+ **Following the teachings of Jesus is the will of the Father, Matthew 7:24-27**
2. **Only Two Ways**
3. **The Broad Road**
	* **Little effort required**
	* **Plenty of company**
	* **Plenty of false teacher to help keep you there**
	* **This road leads to destruction**
4. **The Narrow Gate**
	* **Jesus Christ as the gate and the way, John 10:9 and 14:6**
	* **Small gate**
		+ **No group entrance**
		+ **No excess baggage**
	* **Narrow path**
		+ **Difficult path**
		+ **Few on the path**
	* **This road leads to life**

**13**"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.  **14**"For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

***The Sermon on the Mount***

**Enter by the Narrow Gate; Matthew 7:13-14**

**Scripture Reading and Prayer**

* **Read Matthew 7:13-14 (Slides)**

**Exposition Matthew 7:13-14 (Slide 1 – Header Slide)**

1. **Enter, Imperative Command (You must enter)**
	* One of the most familiar passages in the bible and also one of the most challenging
	* Some of the most terrifying verses in all the bible are contained in Matthew 7
	* This verse begins a series of very exacting, very pointed language by Jesus
	* And the aim of these verses, the primary audience of these verses is religious people
	* Not just any religious people, but religious people who claim to be followers of Jesus
	* I want us to explore just verses 13 and 14 today
	* However, I want to point out, and will point out as we study today, that this section continues all the way down to verse 23 as one complete section
	* Next week we will celebrate the Lord’s Supper around tables here in this room
	* The two weeks after that we will spend two Sundays explore verses 15-23, one expository look at these verses and one week where I will explore all the common ways that we see these verses of false teachers leading others astray applies
	* So that is the next few weeks, but for today we come to this challenging statement
	* **Read Matthew 7:13 (Slide 2)**
	* I know I did not put the entire verse, but lets just ask a few questions about this initial imperative by Jesus – this is a command, “YOU MUST ENTER…”
	* Here are three questions, the what, the why, the how questions
	* **Enter What?**
		+ Throughout the Sermon on the Mount and the Gospel of Matthew Jesus speaks like this – You Must ENTER
		+ **Read Matthew 5:20 (Slide 3)**
		+ **Read Matthew 18:3 (Slide 4)**
		+ **Read Matthew 19:23-26 (Slide 5)**
		+ Answer as to the question of enter what? The Kingdom of God
		+ **The Kingdom, Matthew 5:20, 6:33, 7:21, 18:1-5, 19:21-26, 23:13**
	* **Why?**
		+ For the why question, even though I believe the reasons are sufficiently articulated here, I want to spend a moment in a parallel passage in Luke
		+ **Read Luke 13:22-29 (Slides 6-9)**
		+ **Why must we enter through the narrow gate? Because entering through the narrow gate is a metaphor for Salvation**
		+ **If you do not enter you are not saved**
	* **How?**
		+ **If this is so important, how do we enter?**
		+ **The answer is not here in this verse, verse 13, but later in the text**
		+ **Matthew 7:21: Those who do “the will of My Father.”**
		+ **Believing in Jesus is the will of the Father, John 6:28-29**
		+ **Following the teachings of Jesus is the will of the Father, Matthew 7:24-27**
2. **Only Two Ways**
	* In the sermon on the Mount there are two options for our lives: serving one of two masters – God or money, two builders – one wise or the other foolish, and two gates – one narrow or one wide
	* The world hates this about Jesus
	* The world hates this about Him and so they are constantly trying to diffuse this exclusive claim
	* The attempts are continuous in the world today to assault the exclusive message of Jesus, to challenge His exclusive claims
	* But this verse is not addressed to the world, this verse is not directed at individuals who deny God or deny that Jesus is God’s Son or deny that Jesus has taught and done great things
	* This whole passage is directed at those claiming to be followers of Jesus
	* This warning is not to the world but to us, to us church going folks
	* We really, really, really want there to be other ways to God
	* We really want there to be at least three ways
	* We are glad that Jesus has come into the world and made a way to the Father
	* We are glad that He has done this, but following Him is challenging, if we are going to following Him the way the Bible says to follow Him
	* I was very convicted by a Francis Chan youtube clip and wanted to share it with you
	* This is Francis Chan (author, teacher, pastor) speaking last year at a conference here in Dallas
	* **Video of Francis Chan from youtube (Video)**
3. **The Broad Road**
	* **Read Matthew 7:13 (Slide 10)**
	* **Little effort required**
	* No effort required: just stay where you are
	* Easy traveling: no moral costs, no time, no money, no energy, no commitment, no humility, no sacrifice, no changes
	* In point of fact, if you wish to be on the broad road in this life, there is nothing required, it requires no search, no knocking or asking, it requires no work or faith
	* This is the default position, the default path
	* **Plenty of company**
	* Many find this path
	* **Plenty of false teacher to help keep you there**
	* Matthew 7:15-23 warns against false teachers, I assume because false teachers will lead many to remain on this broad road
	* These false teachers will come from within the church
	* Jesus knew the future of the church with pristine understanding, clarity, foresight
	* **This road leads to destruction**
	* This read does not have a good end
	* Therefore, enter by the narrow gate for the broad gate only leads to great trouble
4. **The Narrow Gate**
	* **Read Matthew 7:14 (Slide 11)**
	* This statement about the gate reminds me of a few statements Jesus made in John’s Gospel
	* **Jesus Christ as the gate and the way, John 10:9 and 14:6**
	* **Small gate**
		+ **No group entrance**
		+ We do not enter this gate as a group, no group tickets, no religious affiliation will be able to squeeze us into the kingdom
		+ **No excess baggage**
	* **Narrow path**
		+ Narrow, no excess room
		+ Head stuck at the arch in Saint Louis by pushing it through the metal bars in line
		+ Narrow, to press through the entrance onto the narrow path
		+ **Difficult path**
		+ This is a call to a difficult life
		+ **Lonely path - Few travelers**
* **Despite the difficulties there is great reason to follow Jesus this way: This road leads to life**
1. **Conclusions: This is a call to a difficult life**
	* **First, Jesus call is to a difficult life**
	* **He does not call us to an easy life or to a life of no trouble or to a life of all**
	* **Second, There is great promise to following Christ and His teachings: Life**

Announcements:

1. Prayer time for Keith Barrow and the Sweets
2. New Comers’ class tonight, Sunday November 14 whole of Sunday evening study in the fellowship hall for the first hour of the new members class
3. Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, November 21
4. We need to clear this room of chairs after the 11 service
5. Dessert Auction for Thanksgiving dinner, November 21 for medical supplies to Sudan