

Lord, Keep Me on the Narrow Path!

Key Scripture:

"Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it. Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves."

Matt 7:13-15 (NASB77)

Portion for the Journey:

When Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount, He knew the time He had left with His chosen was short. I believe His words were delivered with a profound sense of urgency. He sought to pour into the people the things they would need to know in order to survive the trials and tests they would face. His disciples needed to hear and heed His Words because they contained great eternal significance. His words are the words of spirit and life (John 6:63, 68). The matters of which He speaks are matters of life and death, not just in this world, but in the world to come. Jesus repeatedly warned against the things that could cause us to lose our way, our faith and ultimately our very lives. It is vital that we spend time studying and meditating on His warnings. They are as real and personal for us today as they were when He spoke these words to His disciples in the first century!! His Words are not meant to inspire fear but stir us to full wakefulness and guide us in the walk of faith we need to be victorious!

As we study this path that Jesus has called us to walk it may seem impossible. It would be impossible for us, if God were not willing to send His Holy Spirit to walk with us and provide us with everything we need to be victorious. When the rich young ruler was told what he must do in order to be saved, he walked away sad. The disciples, observing this scene, asked Jesus how any can be saved. Jesus declared that what is impossible for man is possible with God. God calls us to seek Him with all of our heart. If we seek Him earnestly, He promises we will find Him and He will fight for us. (Luke 18:18-27) It is vital that we personally know and do not let go of our Savior or walk away sad. As believers, we are not engaged in a religion or seeking mere spiritual experiences. Unless we truly know Him we will be deceived and led astray from the truth by counterfeits. Jesus made it very clear that the road of truth that leads us to God Himself is not an easy road nor will we find it without effort on our part. God will do His part but we must do our part as well. This road to Jesus requires that we remain alert, focused and constantly dependent upon Him and on His Word. It is a road requiring great endurance and perseverance. This study focuses upon what Jesus requires of us so that we have the assurance that we will enter the narrow gate. (Phil. 2:12-13)

Paul said, "For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness (subtilty), your minds will be led astray (corrupted) from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully." 2 Cor 11:2-4 (NASB)

The word "subtilty" used in this passage is the utter foe of the "simplicity" which is intent on ONE object, Jesus, and seeks none "other," and no "other" and different Spirit (2Co 11:4); but loves him with tender SINGLENESSE OF AFFECTION. Eve's first step in falling into Satan's trap was in mentally harboring for a moment the possibility insinuated by the serpent that GOD did not have her truest interests at heart, and of this "other" professing friend was more concerned for her than God. The result was that her heart was led astray (**corrupted** -- so as to lose their virgin purity through seducers (2Co 11:4).

Note that this chapter goes on to talk about those who would come and preach “another Jesus” and Satan and his ministers who appear as angels of light. These are the ones who would seduce us from the “narrow way” which is simplicity and purity of devotion to Jesus. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds. 2 Cor 11:13-15(NASB); Rev. 2:20 (NKJV)

There is a different Jesus being taught today who would lead followers on an easy path that will ultimately destroy them. Paul rebuked the Corinthians for putting up with whatever anyone told them, *even if they preached a different Jesus.* (2 Cor. 11:4) In these last days, there are those who seek to lead us to a Jesus who is loved by the world. This is a Jesus who never judges, who never talks about sin or hell, a Jesus who allows us to be at peace with this world. The Gospel of this “*different Jesus*” does not make anyone uncomfortable. This *false Jesus* calls sin “mistakes,” does not require His followers to repent, crucify their flesh or change their ways. He is more concerned with our happiness than holiness. This Jesus does not require his followers to take up their cross, die to self or endure suffering, hardship or persecution. This false Jesus allows many ways to heaven and gladly accepts friends of the world, even believers of other faiths as long as they are sincere! Multitudes are following this different Jesus down the broad path of destruction. This amicable Jesus promises we will live the wonderful life but does nothing to prepare us for times of tribulation or to become like the holy God we will meet on judgment day. (Matt. 24:24; Mark 13:22; Deut. 4:29 (Amp); Ps. 27:8; Ps. 63:1; Jer. 29:13; 2 Cor. 11:4, 14, John 15:18; John 7:7; John 15:18)

It is vitally important that we know our Lord and Savior Himself, His character, and His personality. The true Son of God is the only way to eternal life! He is the narrow gate! We must learn to discern the voice of our Shepherd from the false shepherds which the LORD warned were all around us. He warned that few would find the true way to heaven, though many would try. The Word shows us that false shepherds are numerous and deadly. In the last days, their numbers will increase. They look and sound like us! They seek to entice us to follow this “*different Jesus*” who is not our Savior, the Son of God. We need to be vigilant to discern and test every spirit. (Ps. 95:7; John 10:3-4, 27-29; 1 John 4:1; Rev. 12:9)

If most people will be deceived and choose the broad path, how do we discern the difference between truth leading to genuine faith and error leading to destruction? The LORD has given us everything we need to be victorious to the end. He is everything we need and we must exert ourselves to hold fast to Him. He has promised us that He will never leave us or fail us or forsake us!

1. **Take heed to His Words. Meditate on His Word!! Truth is grounded in His Word. False teaching is usually based on isolated scriptures or focuses on experiences or feelings. Many are led astray by charismatic speakers with appealing personalities.** We are called to “take heed” to the things Jesus has said in His Word because His Words to us are Spirit and Life (see Josh. 1:1-9; John 6:63; Mark 4:11, Matt. 16:15; John 6:69; Acts 17:11-12). The Bible says we are to study to show ourselves approved. Beware of a ministry or teaching whose primary source of teaching is not the Word in of God. Read His warnings and be alert to their impact on your life! The Truth as given to us in His Word is the foundation piece of our spiritual armor, to which all other pieces of armor are attached. The Word is full of promises for those who meditate on His Word. (Isa. 55:1-3; 1 Thes. 5:1-5; 2 Thes. 2:1-12; 1 Tim. 4:13-16; 2 Tim. 3:1-4:4; Ps. 1:1-3; Ps. 119:130 (see entire chapter!); Prov. 2:1-7)
2. **Pray without ceasing!** We must understand our utmost helplessness to do anything apart from Him. As we realize our need for him, we will pray more and more for His help, wisdom and guidance. He promises us that as we lean upon Him and not our own understanding He will make our paths straight. 1 Thes. 5:17; Ps. 37:5; Ps. 55:22; Col. 4:2

3. **Cultivate an intimate friendship with the LORD Himself.** Our highest priority is to seek the Lord with all of our hearts. Jesus made it clear we are to seek first the Kingdom of God and promises us that if we do this, we will find Him. When Mary chose to sit at Jesus feet, He said that she had chosen the one thing needful and that it could not be taken from her. Take time to come apart and fellowship with the LORD, meditate on His Word, seek to know and meditate on His names. Spend time worshipping Him and listening to Him as He speaks to you through His Word. Ps. 27:4; Luke 10:39-42; Matt. 6:33; Ps. 73:25; John 17:3

4. **A reverential “fear of the LORD”** is an essential aspect of knowing Him in intimate friendship. It is one of the marks of a true Christian and it promises to lead us to holiness, obedience and wisdom. The closer we draw to His throne, the greater will be our sense of fear and reverential awe at His presence. Yet reverence and awe do not encompass the full meaning of the fear of the LORD. The phrase, “fear of the LORD” in both the OT Hebrew and NT Greek speak of terror, respect, reverence, dread, that which induces trembling. Many believe the God of the New Testament is no longer to be feared, but Jesus and His disciples clearly describe this as a characteristic of our relationship to the LORD as we come into His Holy Presence. Take a moment to read Matthew chapter 10. Luke wrote, “Then had the churches rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the LORD, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.” Acts 9:31 Paul wrote to the Philippians, instructing them to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;” Phil. 2:12. Hebrews 10:26-27, 30-31 and 12:28-29 speaks of a trembling and quaking that should take place if one knows they have offended God and have not obtained forgiveness. The fear of the LORD is of incredible value in the narrow way toward salvation. It will produce not only great reverence and desire for holiness, but also a heart that is full of worship and love for our LORD and master. The wicked do not have any fear of God. Rom. 3:18; Ps. 103:17-18, Isa. 66:1-2; Prov. 1:7; 2:4-5

5. **Ask God to teach you His ways. We need to understand that we do not or cannot naturally know God’s ways.** Isaiah 55:11 says that God’s ways are far above our ways, and beyond our understanding. Moses is one who knew God, of whom it is said he spoke to God face to face as a man speaks to a friend. (Read Exodus 33:9-13 and Exodus 34) Yet, even though Moses walked in intimate friendship with the Lord, he cried out to the Lord to teach him His ways. God answered Moses and revealed Himself. He spoke to him of holiness, sin and iniquity and His willingness to forgive, but He also warned him that Israel needed to be careful not to go after any other gods. Ps. 103:6-7 says that God showed His acts to Israel, but He showed His ways to Moses. To know His ways is to be intimately acquainted with His heart, His motives and passions. Israel saw what God did, but did not understand why. Moses was given understanding of His true character and His heart so that he could understand why God acted as He did. This is true friendship. Read and pray through Psalm 25 (entire chapter, especially note verses 4-5, 8,12); Ps. 27:11; Ps. 5:8; Ps. 86:11

6. **Beware of false teachers, prophets and shepherds who would misdirect to the Broad Road:** Jesus’ warning against false teachers and false prophets in Matthew 5:15-20 comes immediately after his teaching describing the narrow way and the broad way. Jesus warns His people to be on the alert against false prophets, describing them as ravening wolves, who appear as sheep but inwardly are seek to devour the sheep. Satan is eager to destroy men's lives and will resort to every possible device to succeed. Jesus said the false teacher will look and act like a believer on the outside, but his heart is hungry, bloodthirsty and a deadly enemy of every true sheep. He even appears as an angel of light. Satan comes to kill, steal and destroy... He comes to devour the sheep. While we are not to fear him, we must always be aware that we have an adversary who wants to destroy us.

We need to cry out for a spirit of discernment and test every spirit. We have an enemy who is capable of deceiving the entire world and he is dedicated to luring us onto the path that leads to destruction. These men and women who are false teachers do not wear horns or dress in a fashion that easily identifies them. They look like us, they are in our churches, and they speak from our pulpits. We need to be like the Bereans who received the teachings of Paul and Silas with great eagerness, and yet examined the Scriptures daily to

see whether the teaching was true to the Word. Be careful not to give blind trust to men, no matter how godly they may seem, but examine every teaching that you receive in the light of God's word. Prayerfully ask the LORD to protect you from deception. Ask the LORD for the gift of discernment. Acts 17:11; Matt. 7:15-20; 2 Pet. 2:1

These false teachers probably believe they are Christians. He warned that not everyone who says, "Lord, lord" will enter heaven. He said, "Many will say to Me on that day, "Lord, Lord did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in your name perform many miracles? And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you... Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock." (See Matthew 7:13-29) These people do not just call themselves Christians, they were actually in active ministry but they would not enter heaven! He did not know them.

Jeremiah 23 is an excellent chapter to study to see the difference between the false and true prophets and shepherds of God. False prophets steal words from one another (v.30, i.e. reading of books) while the true prophet stands in God's presence and receives His Word (v. 18, 22). The council of the LORD is the secret place of the Most High God, the Holy of Holies, where we come into His presence and have fellowship with Him. The counsel of God includes the Word itself (v.28,29) and always brings needed repentance (v. 22). (See Ps. 9:10; Jer. 23:18; 22).

7. Recognize the Sign Posts of the Narrow Way: Jesus described the hard road He was setting His disciples upon in Matt. 10:16-39. Take some time to reach this passage and make a list of the characteristics of the life He has called His disciples to while on this earth. As we meditate upon this passage and additional passages shown below, reflect on how this compares to the experience of the Church today. Are we walking on this narrow path?

- a. **Jesus' way is called the Highway of Holiness.** He has called us to walk in holiness, just as He Himself is holy. The more we draw near to a Holy God, the more conscious we will be of our sins and sin nature. Our desire for holiness grows as we learn to know and love all aspects of God's character, not just select characteristics that are appealing to us. Holiness is NOT legalism or self-righteousness. There is no condemnation in Christ Jesus. We are transformed as we keep our eyes upon our Savior, and seek to walk according to His example. It should be our desire to separate from anything that would separate us from Him. (Isaiah 6)

A person is not Christians because they say they are saved. True Christians are proven by their faith and obedience to the Lord and to His Word. Beware of those who have an "anointing" but whose personal lives do not match their message. Beware of those who say they "have the Spirit" but who do not call one to a life of holiness and purity. All signs and wonders are not from God. False prophets will perform signs and wonders, that Jesus said would deceive even the very elect if that were possible. Beware of "manifestations" of the "Spirit" that are incompatible with Jesus' actions because Jesus, the Father and Holy Spirit are one. True holiness goes beyond the absence of sin and worldliness, it entails taking upon ourselves the same character and righteousness that is our Father's. Eph. 5:11, Rev. 18:4

"See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. Little children, make sure no one deceives you;

the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.” 1 John 3:1-10 (NASB)

HIGHWAY OF HOLINESS:

And a highway will be there, a roadway,
And it will be called the Highway of Holiness.
The unclean will not travel on it,
But it *will* be for him who walks *that* way,
And fools will not wander *on it*.
No lion will be there, Nor will any vicious beast go up on it;
These will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk *there*,
And the ransomed of the LORD will return,
And come with joyful shouting to Zion,
With everlasting joy upon their heads.
Isaiah 35:8-10 (NASB77)

- b. **The Narrow way calls for separation from the world, the flesh and the devil:** His path does not crisscross the world. The narrow path is a “one way path” that leads us diametrically away from the world. It is constantly in opposition to the world and its ways. True Christianity calls for separation from the world. We need to make a choice because we cannot serve two masters. *“Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.” 1 John 2:15-17 (NLT); Matt. 6:24*
- c. **Finding and remaining on the narrow way will require strenuous effort.** Pray the LORD will stir our hearts to full wakefulness and to set us free from all passivity and complacency that would cause us to enter spiritual stupor or sleepiness when we need to be fully awake. We need to exert a violent effort to enter the narrow gate! Our own righteousness will never be enough. This effort is dedicated to keeping our focus upon the LORD and continually trusting Him and walking by faith. Our work is to believe and to keep on believing, holding fast to our Savior and maintaining our profession of faith. Passivity and complacency will undermine the strength we need to overcome all obstacles.

*“As Jesus journeyed on through towns and villages, teaching, and making His way toward Jerusalem. And someone asked Him, Lord, will only a few be saved (rescued, delivered from the penalties of the last judgment, and made partakers of the salvation by Christ)? And He said to them, **Strive** (Strong's #75) to enter by **the narrow door** (Strong's #4728) [force yourselves through it], for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. When once the Master of the house gets up and closes the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door [again and again], saying, Lord, open to us! He will answer you, I do not know where [what household—certainly not Mine] you come from. Then you will begin to say, We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets. But He will say, I tell you, I do not know where [what household—certainly not Mine] you come from; depart from Me, all you wrongdoers! There will be weeping and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves being cast forth (banished, driven away). And [people] will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit down (feast at*

table) in the kingdom of God. And behold, there are some [now] last who will be first [then], and there are some [now] first who will be last [then].” Luke 13:22-30 (AMP); Phil. 2:12; 1 Cor. 9:24-27

- d. **This path requires wholehearted obedience to His Spirit as He directs us through His Word.** Jesus said that no one can enter the Kingdom unless they obey the will of the Father who is in heaven. We cannot say that we love Him, if we are not willing to obey Him. Obedience is the way in which we demonstrate our love for Him. Andrew Murray describes obedience in his book, “The Blessings of Obedience,” “The new believer surrenders his whole being to be, think, speak and do nothing but what is according to the will of God.” The promise that goes with this type of obedience is that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit will come and make their abode with us!! Jer. 7:22-23; Matt. 7:21; John 14:15, 16, 21, 23; Rev. 22:14;
- e. **This path calls us to walk in the light as He is in the light.** To walk in the light means we allow His light to shine on our hearts and expose our sin. This calls for a willingness to be transparent and open before the LORD. It is important that we keep short accounts with the LORD. Sin will take us off the path of righteousness, but when we confess and repent, God will restore us. We need to be willing to let Him show us our sins, quickly confess and repent (turn and walk in a new direction) when He does. If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we will have fellowship with one another. To walk in the light means that we seek to walk in constant forgiveness and love for others. We are to pursue peace with one another. (Heb. 12:12-14; John 3:19-21; 1 John 1:7; Rom. 6:23)
- f. **We are to walk circumspectly upon this path.** The path that we are called to walk requires us to be careful and alert. Ephesians 5:15 in the NKJV says, “See to it that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise...” The word for “circumspect” means exactly, diligently, cautiously, with watchfulness every way, with attention to guard against surprise or danger. Eph 5:15-17; Prov 4:26; 1 Cor 16:13; 1 Thes 5:6
- g. **There will be much opposition walk on this path. We are called to be warriors who will face many obstacles in our walk. 1 Cor. 16:9; Phil. 1:28** Jesus makes it clear that this is not an easy way. It will be a hard battle to the end for we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers and rulers of darkness. (Eph. 6:10-18) Jesus said that few will be make it. This path will require constant prayer for endurance and perseverance. (Matt. 20:16; 22:14) Jesus said, we must strive to enter through the narrow gate. The word strive is Strong's #75, agonizomai, from which we get our English word "agonize." In the Greek, the word means to fight or strive, to labor fervently, it is used in the following contexts:
- 1) To enter a contest: contend in the gymnastic games (in Biblical times, such contests were fights to the death.)
 - 2) To contend with adversaries, fight
 - 3) To contend, struggle, with difficulties and dangers
 - 4) To endeavor with strenuous zeal, strive: to obtain something —Strong's Dictionary
- h. **The narrow way is a path which will entail suffering.** The world seeks to avoid suffering at all costs, but suffering plays a role in our sanctification and while we never seek it out, we must accept that God can use it for His purposes in our spiritual growth. To abide in Him is to continue to trust Him in the midst of suffering—even when we do not understand “why.” The Word describes a myriad of ways that His people have suffered. God promises that He will never leave us, or fail us or forsake us. He will be with us in the midst of these trials and bring us successfully through these times. 2 Cor. 4:16-18; 2 Cor. 11:23-28; Rom. 8:18,34,37 1 Pet. 5:10; Ps. 119:67,71; Rom 5:3-5

Matthew 7:14 “uses two Greek words for “Narrow” gate that also provide description of the path we must take to follow Jesus:

1. Strait (narrow) gate: "Stenos" (#4728) is used in both Matt. 7:14 and Luke 13:24. It is an adjective that has very similar meanings to the word "strive." This word has aspects of anguish, distress and the groaning one makes when seeking to enter a narrow passageway. It is used figuratively in Matt. 7:13, 14, of the gate which provides the entrance to eternal life, "narrow" because it runs counter to natural inclinations, and "the way" is similarly characterized; so in Luke 13:24 (where the more intensive word agonizomai, "strive," is used); RV, "narrow" (AV, "strait") in each place.

2. Narrow (straitened and compressed) way: The Greek word "Thlibo" (#2346) is translated "narrow" in Matt. 7:14 in the "narrow way." It is a verb meaning: "to press," lit., "narrowed" (or "straitened). i.e., hemmed in, like a mountain gorge; the way is rendered "narrow" by the Divine conditions, which make it impossible for any to enter who think the entrance depends upon self-merit, or who still incline towards sin, or desire to continue in evil. This word is synonymous with affliction, pressed, troubled, or to suffer tribulation. It makes reference to the pressure of circumstances or the antagonism of persons, to be troubled. The word is used of the experience of believers which comes to them from without. — Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words

- i. **This path calls us to forsake all else. Jesus** warned those He calls that there will be a cost to following Him and urges them to count the cost before they set upon His path. His path is too narrow to cross if we carry extra baggage. We must be willing to lay down even our lives for His sake. Matt. 10:39 states, "He that finds his life shall lose it: and he that loses his life for my sake shall find it." Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary noted that the true meaning of this passage comes from understanding there are two meanings attached to the word "life." The contrast is between a lower and a higher, the natural and the spiritual, the temporal and the eternal. (Mt 16:25 Lu 17:33 John 12:25). The commentary states, "An entire sacrifice of the lower, with all its relationships and interests -- or, a willingness to make it which is the same thing -- is indispensable to the preservation of the higher life; and he who cannot bring himself to surrender the one for the sake of the other shall eventually lose both." Luke 9:62; Luke 14:28-30
- j. **The narrow path requires us to take up our cross and walk the path that Jesus walked.** "And he who does not take up his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. " He who has found his life shall lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake shall find it." (Mt 16:24 Lu 9:23 Lu 14:27). We have become so accustomed to this expression -- "taking up one's cross" -- in the sense of "being prepared for trials in general for Christ's sake," that we are apt to lose sight of its primary and proper sense here -- "a preparedness to go forth even to crucifixion—a death. Self must die along with all self-indulgence. We are called to crucify the flesh and lay down our own desires in order that we might better obey and follow the LORD. (See 1 John 2:15-17; Ps 141; Ps. 101: Ps. 15:1-5) Matt 10:34-39 (NASB77); **Luke 14:25-35; Phil. 3:10**
- k. **We will be hated and persecuted by the world and perhaps even members of our own household.** "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. [strife, discord, conflict; deadly opposition between eternally hostile principles, penetrating into and rending asunder the dearest ties.] For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD. " He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. Verse 36. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household -- This saying, which is quoted, as is the whole verse, from Mic 7:6, is but an extension of the

Psalmist's complaint (Ps 41:9 Ps 55:12-14), which had its most affecting illustration in the treason of Judas against our Lord Himself (John 13:18 Mt 26:48-50). Hence would arise the necessity of a choice between Christ and the nearest relations, which would put them to the severest test. (Matt. 10:34-39; Luke 12:51)

The Narrow Way is never an easy way....

The Broad Way = indulgence and indolence, inaction

The Broad Way = promises freedom from pain

The Broad Way = lack of exertion of body, mind or spirit

The Broad Way = a love of ease or aversion to toil

The Broad Way = outward peace and reconciliation with the world

The Narrow Way = Patient obedience to duty

The Narrow Way = Way of honor through humility

The Narrow Way = Noble Character and Integrity

The Narrow Way = sets us at odds with the world, maybe even friends and family

The Narrow Way = rejection by men, ridicule and persecution (John 15:18-19)

The Broad Way = pleasure seeking

The Broad Way = success valued over character

The Broad Way = resents authority, rules or discipline (Ps. 50:17)

The Broad Way = pleasing men rather than saving men

The Narrow Way = Self-denial, sacrifice

The Narrow Way = discipline, hard work (2 Tim. 2:15)

The Narrow Way = the way of repentance and holiness

The Narrow Way = The way of The Cross

The Broad Way = Selfishness

The Broad Way = Comfortable with sin

The Broad Way = Devotion to Self, self indulgence

The Broad Way = Spending oneself on this world

The Narrow Way = Devotion to Christ

The Narrow Way = Spending and being Spent for Him

The Narrow Way = Spending and being spent for others to know Him

The Narrow Way = Waits for eternal rewards

The Broad Way = Saving the lower life aspects of the flesh

The Broad Way = Finding one's approval in men

The Broad Way = Defines success in men's applause or wealth

The Broad Way = Promises immediate rewards (though they are shallow and fleeting)

The Narrow way = Losing one's life out of devotion to God and to duty (Matt. 16:24,25)

The Narrow way = too small for worldliness, self-righteousness, and the old man/flesh

The Narrow Way = holiness and purity

The Narrow Way = separation from the world. All worldliness

The Narrow Way leads to = Eternal life and being seated beside Christ, the King of Kings

The Broad Way leads to = Death and Eternal destruction

In conclusion, take the time to read and meditate in His Word, always drawing near and seeking His presence. We need to be diligent to study to show ourselves approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the Word of Truth! 2 Tim. 2:15. If we do our part, keep our eyes on the LORD and seek Him, constantly turning to Him, we can totally trust Him to do His part, which is to make us acceptable and complete the work He has begun in us. We trust and obey, He will be our constant help. He is all sufficient to meet our every need.

LORD, we commit our way unto You and ask that You would make our paths straight. Help us to love you with all of our heart, mind, soul and spirit. Help us to be separate from anything that separates us from You! Give us a hunger for the Word of Truth and let Your truth and Your light guide us and lead us to You. Help us to abide in You and in Your Word. May You keep us in the Secret Place of the Most High God.

What the Lord is Speaking to Your Heart

Your Response to God