

THE NARROWS MATTHEW 7:13-29

Every whitewater river has a section called “The Narrows.” It’s where the riverbed constricts, the banks get closer, the river grows violent. Down through the canyon walls the water-flow descends and intensifies.

And in a sense, this is what happens toward the end of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. I call Matthew 7, “The Narrows.” Jesus is culminating His thoughts, and summing up His message, and calling for a decision...

It’s time to make a choice...

Let’s read our text, Matthew 7:13-29, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles.

Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.

And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

People today like options. We no longer live in an either/or world... *There was a time when Americans drove either a Ford or a Chevy... Your ice cream was vanilla or chocolate... TV was ABC, or CBS, or NBC...*

But no more!

Today there are more than 50 different nationwide television networks... Sold in America are 752 different models of cars and trucks... And Baskin Robbins no longer offers 31 flavors, today the website lists over 50.

What if your wife sent you to the grocery store with a shopping list - Crest toothpaste, Campbell's soup, Tropicana Orange Juice, Cheerios, and Head and Shoulders Shampoo... *that seems simple enough...*

But then you get there, and start combing the shelves, and you find there're 27 varieties of Crest, 53 types of Campbell's Soup, and 8 sizes of Tropicana.

And then there's not just plain Cheerios, there's now Fruity, Honey Nut, Apple Cinnamon, Banana Nut, Frosted, Chocolate, Multi Grain, Multi Grain with Peanut Butter, Cinnamon Burst (*what have they done to my Cheerios?* There're now 13 varieties) - as well as, 25 types of Head and Shoulders (*from Itchy Scalp with Eucalyptus - to Dry Scalp Care with Almond Oil*).

Ever been in line at a Starbucks and the guy in front of you tells the barista "Make it a tall, half-caff, skinny, soy latte, at 120 degrees" - then you order, "*I'd like a cup of coffee.*" You're embarrassed by your naivety...

Starbucks claims to offer its customers over 80,000 different drink combinations... *We love our options!*

Even Christians today want multiple options...

Open your Bible... today you can read the KJV, New KJV, NAS, ESV, RSV, New RSV, NIV, NLT, etc., etc.

Come to Church... either Saturday night or Sunday morning... and you can attend at 7:45, 9:30 or 11:15.

And services... there's the contemporary service, or traditional service, or sunrise service, or family service.

And communion... we're now regular or gluten-free.

Today we live among multiple options. It's reflected in all areas of life. Modern America is *multicultural*. There're *alternative lifestyles*, and *redefined families*.

And this shows up in religious beliefs. Modern morality and spirituality is a smorgasbord. It's no longer about right and wrong, true and false... *it's take your pick - be true to yourself - find what's right for you...*

And don't worry about sticking with it, *if at some point your feelings change then your beliefs can change with them*. No biggie. Shop around. *Faith is about what fits*.

For the *skeptical mind* there's [Deism or Atheism](#).

For the *doubting do-gooder* there's [Humanism](#).

For the *environmentalist* there's [Pantheism](#).

For the *touchy-feely* there's [Eastern Mysticism](#).

For the *power monger* there's [Occultism](#).

For the *militant mind* there's [Islam](#).

For the *feminist mind* there's [Goddess Worship](#).

If you *can't make up your mind* there's [Polytheism](#).

And if no one "*ISM*" does the trick, be eclectic - take a little from here, a little from there - and build your own religion. Make a god in *YOUR own image and likeness*. Have your own set of rules. Call it *Bill-ism* or *Sally-ism*.

But whatever you do, don't you dare expect Jesus to agree with your foolishness! Not after His words in the Sermon on the Mount. You can't add Jesus to your *buffet of belief*. He refuses to be anybody's addendum.

Jesus declares in Matthew 7:13, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

I'm afraid in the ears of politically-correct listeners these are “fight'n words.” Jesus runs roughshod over our society's staunchly held belief in tolerance and pluralism. This is not “all roads lead to heaven.”

Jesus shocks and offends modern notions of “open-mindedness” when He trumpets, “*narrow is the gate.*”

Jesus is cutting down our multiple choices. There are just *two gates, two ways, two crowds, two destinations.*

You either pass through a narrow gate or a wide one... You travel a broad, easy road or one that's lonely and difficult... You either blend in with the majority or you stick out in the minority... And in the end you either live or die - you spend eternity in heaven or in hell.

Jesus is at the end of His sermon, and like any good preacher, He's calling His listeners to respond. This is His manifesto. He's laid out what life is like in His kingdom. Now He challenges us to choose *His way*.

And this one choice changes everything. What you do with Jesus is the biggest decision you'll make in life.

There's a church in up-state Michigan that has a very steep, gabled roof. The raindrops that land side-by-side on that roof roll off in one of two directions...

Some slide down the mountain into tributaries that flow into the mighty Mississippi, which dumps into the Gulf of Mexico... Whereas, other raindrops slip off the same roof and into streams that fill the Great Lakes, and eventually work their way into the Atlantic Ocean.

It's amazing, water pellets that fell side-by-side, end up thousands of miles apart. Their long range trajectory was determined by where they come down on a single point. *And that's true for each one of us.*

What we do with Jesus determines so much!

Jesus makes our choices crystal clear! First, you got to choose *a gate* - *one is wide and the other is narrow.*

The wide gate is spacious enough for everyone to enter. You can bring all your baggage. There're no passport checks. The crowd presses toward this gate.

In fact, just go with the flow - get swept up in the crowd - *never actually make a decision* - and you'll end up stumbling through the wide gate. It's a scary thought, **"It does not require a decision to go to hell."**

The in-crowd is headed toward the wide gate.

Sometimes multiple-options are not a good thing. Too many options can prove frustrating and confusing.

Sometimes I dread going out to eat with my family knowing we'll spend 30 minutes trying to choose from all the restaurants in the area. It's as if they enjoy the selection more than the meal... "Please, just pick one!"

God never wanted His worshippers to be so frustrated or confused. Important issues need clarity.

This why OT Israel had just one Temple, and one altar, and one priesthood. God centralized worship.

And whenever His people tried to decentralize their worship, and sacrifice on their own private altars, God considered it idolatry, and fought against that worship.

This is also the strategy He took in the NT.

Again, God has sanctioned just one Temple (*the Church*), one altar (*the Cross*), one priest (*the Lord Jesus.*) And God is against worship in any other form.

In Acts 4:12 Peter said of the name of Jesus, "nor is there salvation in any other..."
1 Timothy 2:5, "There is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."
In John 10:9 Jesus said, "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me he will be saved."
And of course, in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes unto the Father except through Me."

God couldn't afford to let anyone muddy the water or frustrate the issue when it came to our salvation, so He made this one decision as straightforward as possible.

Unlike the wide gate, you don't just get swept up in the crowd and get pushed through the narrow gate.

It's like a turnstile. You can only pass one at a time.

You don't go to heaven on someone else's coattails.

A ticket to heaven is free, but it's good for only one admission. Each person has to step out and say "Yes."

The Greek word translated "narrow" is "stenos," or "to compress, constrict." "Stenography" is shorthand. It's like texting. It's an abbreviated form of writing.

And the way to heaven is also compressed.

It's so narrow all baggage is prohibited. You have to come just as you are - *humble, naked, alone, honest.*

Your faith is solely in *Christ's work* and *God's grace.*

Jesus is this constricted, narrow gate - and following Him leads you down a **challenging path**. Notice what Jesus tells us, "*Difficult is the way which leads to life...*"

Realize the broad way is roomy and spacious.

It has no curbs, or stop signs, or speed limits. There are no boundaries or rules. Anything goes on this road.

And it's downhill all the way. CS Lewis once said, "The safest road to Hell is the gradual one - the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without guidelines." This is the broad way.

But following Jesus is the "*difficult way.*"

On this road morals matter. There's objective truth - and right and wrong. God's Word, not our whims, have the final say... Life is not just the path of least resistance. Convictions comes before convenience.

The Bible refers to this road as “a race, a climb, a battle, a voyage, a course.” There’re few straight-aways on this path - places where you can kick back and cruise. This life requires constant vigilance.

There’re *two gates, two ways, and two destinations.*

Jesus tells us the broad, easy way “*leads to destruction.*” *What did you expect?* No lanes, no lines, no limits - there’re bound to be crashes and loss of life.

The ultimate “*destruction*” will be Hell itself. Where “*their worm dies not die and the fire is not quenched.*”

Whereas, following Jesus might make for a rocky road, but *the destination is delightful.* Heaven is ahead.

And realize, **Heaven is where the road goes.**

There are folks who enter the *wide gate* and travel the *broad way*, and still hope to go to heaven. Don’t be foolish. You don’t take 75 North and reach Orlando.

You end up where the road you’re traveling is headed. And it’s not the *broad way* that’s pointed toward heaven, it’s the *narrow gate* and *difficult way.*

Open your Bible and study the map. Make sure the road you walking is headed where you want to end up.

It’s ironic, a recent Gallup Poll revealed that among Americans 54% of the population believe in a literal hell, but only 4% believe that they’re going to go there.

Jesus would disagree with those results. Sadly He says, “*wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.*”

There're *two gates, two roads, two destinations,* and *two groups of travelers.* The "*broad way*" is brimming with people. It's like Facebook. You got 2000 friends, but probably only 3 people who'd loan you 20 bucks.

There's always a big crowd on the "*broad way.*"

Hey, hell is like a college cafeteria. It's packed with folks who hate the food. It's the same ole, same ole. It's noisy, crowded, and hot. You fend for yourself.

Whereas, Heaven is like a boutique restaurant off campus. It's cozy, comfortable. The food is delicious and cooked to order. The service makes you feel like family. And since it's hard to get to, it's never crowded.

I hope you don't fall for the old lie, "*since everybody is doing it, it must be right.*" Once, after a huge earthquake rocked Southern California, WC Fields was asked why he wasn't going to move. Fields replied, "*We're crazy to live here, but there sure are a lot of us.*"

Foolishly, people find security in the crowd. There's a perceived safety in numbers. And this is the attitude many folks adopt who travel along the "*broad way.*"

Whereas, life with Jesus - on the "*difficult way*" - can get terribly lonely. Often a Christian's friends are few.

In Luke 12:32 Jesus encouraged His disciples, "*Do not fear, little flock.*" In the original language it's literally "*micro flock.*" And there are times when the crowd that's following Jesus will shrink to microscopic size.

There's lots of company on the "*broad way.*" It's a party bus. Whereas, follow Jesus - *and though the views are great, and the destination is unbeatable* - the road can get bumpy, and at times you'll ride alone.

And quite frankly, our numbers may shrink further in the days ahead. Stand up for biblical values at school or in the workplace and see how popular you become.

Affirm the Bible's teaching that homosexuality is a sin - that all religions DON'T lead to God - that husbands should be the head of their home - that apart from Jesus man is destined to hell - that Islam is a lie...

Go on the record with these issues, and you might lose your job, or scholarship, or the esteem of your peers. At least folks who dare to obey will grow fewer.

Ninety years ago British pundit GK Chesterton wrote, "You are free in our time to say that God does not exist; you are free to say that He exists and is evil; you are free to say... that He would like to exist if He could.

You may talk of God as a metaphor or mystification; you may water Him down with gallons of long words, or boil Him to the rags of metaphysics; and it is not merely that nobody punishes, but nobody protests.

But if you speak of God as a fact, as a thing like a tiger, as a reason for changing one's conduct, then the modern world will stop you somehow if it can." Sadly, Chesterton's words are ringing more and more true!

Choose to enter the "*narrow gate,*" and travel the "*difficult way,*" and you'll experience stretches where you're hated. Long stretches - when you'll walk alone.

It's time for all Christians to count the cost. Will we remain committed to the "*narrow gate,*" the "*difficult way,*" the "*life everlasting,*" and the "*few who find it?*"

Serious times call for serious people...

Jim Elliot, the martyred missionary to the Indians of Equator, once prayed, "Father, make of me a crisis man. Bring those I contact to decision. Let me not be a milepost on a single road; make me a fork, that men must turn one way or another on facing Christ in me."

Do we dare pray the same prayer? "*Lord, make me a fork in the road - a point where choices are made...*"

There are *two gates, two ways, two destinations, two crowds,* and also *two teachers...* Verse 15 warns us, "*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.*"

The truth is not everybody who claims to speak for God really does. False teachers spread false doctrine.

In WW2 the Nazis counterfeited \$630 million worth of pound notes in an effort to sink the British economy.

And likewise, the Devil will use - not *bogus bills* - but *bogus brothers,* and *counterfeit Christians* to sink the Church. Beware of beauty that's only *fleece deep.*

Realize Satan's strategy... He's created a world system that's hostile to the cause of Christ. But if he isn't able to *intimidate us,* he'll try to *infiltrate us.*

Satan thinks, "*if you can't beat them, join them.*"

Thus, he sends in wolves in sheep's clothing. Slick talkers, supposedly with a word from God, to deceive folks - and to rip them off of their blessings in Christ.

I like how Jude 4 puts it, “For certain men have crept in unnoticed.” Creepy people *creeping* into the church.

A guy slips into the single’s group, and claims, “I just love this Body!” Well, be sure it’s the Body of Christ he loves, and not the female bodies in the fellowship.

There’s an elder who’s just a little pushy or greedy. Watch him carefully. Look under his *fleece* for *fangs*.

Don't be gullible! It grieves me when church members forsake the faithful pastor for the flash and splash. We need to learn that folks are not always what they seem.

Remember Little Red Riding Hood, the poor girl was so naive. She missed some obvious red flags.

"Grandma, what big eyes you have." The supposed grandma replied, “*The better to see you with, my dear.*” She should've been looking for the wild in those eyes.

"Grandma, what strong arms you have." “*The better to hug you with, my dear.*” The sister should’ve gotten suspicious! Grannys have *flabby arms*, not strong *arms*.

"Oh Grandma! What big teeth you have!" Then the line, “*The better to eat you with, my dear.*” Little Red Riding Hood was so naive she deserved to be eaten!

And here’s the lesson for us... If a person, even a grandma, *looks like wolf*, and *smells like wolf*, and *talks like wolf* - even if he has 30,000 people attending his church - you better start running, he's probably a wolf!

In fact, Jesus tells us how to discern a false teacher.

Verse 16, “You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?”

Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

Fruits are a by-product of the life of the tree.

Apple trees produce apples. Pecan trees grow pecans. A life rooted in God will yield godly character.

A lot of so-called Christians and Christian ministries are like Christmas trees. They're beautifully decorated, but ornaments aren't the same as fruit. Ornaments just hang from a limb. There's no natural connection with the tree. Whereas, fruit springs from the life of the tree.

Thus, when a man creeps into the church, we need to ask to see his fruits. We need to be **fruit inspectors**.

Even if it takes some time... watch and wait.

Don't listen to *what a person says* until you examine *how that person lives*. What's the fruit being generated in their speech, and conduct, and marriage, and relationship with their kids, and work in the community?

For Jesus tells us in verse 21, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." Anyone can *talk the talk*, but words alone don't make a good witness. Can you *walk the walk*?

“Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” Here’s a person who was used by Jesus, yet never knew Him.

He even possessed spiritual gifts - miracle powers.

Think of a counterfeit \$100 bill. While in circulation the *bogus bill* might do a lot of good. It can put shoes on a child’s feet, or food on a family’s table, or help a church pay its bills - but at some point it’ll get exposed.

While in circulation the funny money did some good, but that won’t save it when it finally gets discovered.

Likewise one day Jesus Christ will yank all the counterfeit prophets and pastors out of circulation. He might've used them for a season, but that never meant He approved of their methods. And In that day, Jesus will say to them, “*I never knew you, depart from Me.*”

Jesus instructs us that in our multiple-option society there’re only *two gates, two ways, two destinations, two crowds, two teachers...* and just *two foundations...*

Realize your life is being built on a foundation. The footings of life are made up of beliefs, habits, practices.

Right now there might not be a lot of difference in the life you’re building, and the life your neighbor builds.

The view from street level is similar. You both go to work, mow the lawn, attend church, play with the kids.

But according to Jesus, it's when *the rain falls, the winds blow, the storm howls* - that the foundation gets revealed - this is when the differences are seen.

Jesus explains in verse 24, “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.” Notice what constitutes strong footings?

“*Hear(ing) these sayings of Mine and do(ing) them.*”

Here's a man who built his life and family on the truths of Jesus. Throughout Scripture the rock is a symbol of Jesus. Messiah is referred to as *a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a rock cut out without hands...*

Whereas sand is a symbol for man. Sand is porous, shifty, unstable, it conforms to whatever mold its poured. I hate to inform you, but there's a little *sandy* in all of us.

It always amazes me where people go for wisdom...

They take their cues from *talk radio*, or adopt the opinions of some *shock jock*, or take seriously the ideas of a *half-cocked celebrity*, or develop their philosophy from *their favorite beer commercial*, or the *redneck wisdom* they get from their co-workers, or the *paperback* you find at the grocery store checkout?

Are you serious? All the while neglecting God's timeless truths. Let's abandon *shifting philosophies*, and *fluctuating opinions*, and the *grainy perspectives* of man. And build our lives on the rock of God's Word.

Twenty years ago, news commentator, Ted Koppel spoke at the Duke University graduation ceremonies.

He made an observation that is as true today as it was then, “We've spent 5000 years as a race of rational human beings trying to drag ourselves out of a slime by searching for truth in moral absolutes.

(But today), in place of truth we've discovered facts. For moral absolutes we've substituted moral ambiguity.

We now communicate with everyone and say absolutely nothing. Our society finds truth, too strong a medicine to digest undiluted.” We've substituted facts for truth. We google an endless stream of data, but for discernment we're clueless. We need God's wisdom.

Recall, Jesus was a carpenter. He knew the value of a structure's foundation. It's been said, “In building anything, you should never go up, until you've first dug deep.” This principle is also true in our spiritual lives.

Thoroughly examine why you do what you do.

Make sure there's a biblical basis for every assumption - every identity - every habit and hobby - every precept, and perspective, and position...

This past April, I taught a pastors conference in Italy.

While there, Kathy and I visited Pisa, and its famous 800 year old Leaning Tower. The 14,500 ton tower slumps 17 inches off center. It's because the original architects failed to build its foundation on the bedrock.

It was built on the soil - soil that's now compressed. As a result the tower tips a little further every year!

And this is similar to the problem Jesus mentions in verse 26, “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

Israel has a rainy season and a dry season.

You could build a house in the dry season and there'd be no problem. But when the rain comes, and the flash floods hit, you realized what you thought was a good lot was just a sandy gully that filled with run-off.

All of sudden, your house is collapsing and moving off its foundation. Now you've got serious problems.

And this is the man who hears the words of Jesus, but rather than apply His truths, and obey them, and build his life around them, he takes it all for granted.

He nods in agreement, but fails to take it to heart.

This man figures all is fine. Call him “gully-able.” For when the storm rages he realizes his tragic mistake...

When Beth Crowe purchased her home, she had no reason to believe she was buying trouble. She lived in the house seven years before she noticed a problem.

At first mortar started falling from her fieldstone fireplace. Over time her chimney started to sink. Then the basement cracked, and the back wall crumbled.

After the house was ten years old, Beth discovered it had been built on a garbage dump. The foundation rested on 55 gallon drums, tires, hot water heaters, burnt boards, debris. Her house became uninhabitable.

Beth had to bulldoze, clean up, and rebuild.

And this is what happens when a man builds on *human wisdom* and *godless philosophy*. Over time his peace of mind and his relationships begin to crack, and come apart. It really is all about the foundation.

Notice, Jesus' final verdict, "*And great was its fall.*"
I don't want that to ever be said over my life!

Remember the three little pigs? The first two oinkers built houses out of straw and sticks, and when the big bad wolf huffed and puffed, he blew the house down.

In the child-friendly, sanitized version I use to read my kids, the foolish pigs escaped to their wise brother's brick house... But that's not how the story was told in the older versions. The original story told you the truth!

The wolf ate the two porkers. You could say, "*Great was their fall.*" And this is the tragic plight of the foolish man who builds his house on sand, not the rock.

Have you storm-proofed - or wolf-proofed - your life?

Are you built on *shifting sand* or on *the solid rock*?

Again, Jesus uses only one criteria to distinguish between the man who survived and the man who was destroyed. The wise man "*heard His sayings and did them.*" He listened, then acted on it and did something!

Once a pastor took over a church in a logging town.

He was out in the woods hunting when he saw some of his church members stealing a competitor's logs. They were sawing the brands off the ends of their logs.

That Sunday the pastor preached a sermon entitled, “**Thou Shalt Not Covet Thy Neighbor’s Property.**” When the sermon was over the perpetrators congratulated him on the best sermon they’d ever heard, yet on Monday morning they were right back stealing logs.

Thus, the next week he titled his sermon, “**Thou Shalt Not Steal.**” And again, everyone liked his sermon.

Yet on Monday they were once again log thieving...

The third week he preached another sermon. And this one he entitled, “**Thou Shalt Not Cut Branded Ends Off Someone Else’s Logs.**” Finally, they got the point.

Some people are expert listeners, but never act on what they hear. Never forget “**Judas heard all of Jesus’ sermons.**” Yet hearing them didn’t do him any good.

A wise person *“heard His sayings and does them.”*

Verse 28 wraps up Jesus’ sermon supreme. *“And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”*

The Jewish rabbis lacked authority. They couched their words as suggestions. They quoted each other to try and validate themselves. Their teaching was lame.

On the other hand, Jesus’ words were weighty.

He spoke with an authority no one had ever heard before. *“You have heard that it was said to those of old... But I say to you...”* His words were new, fresh, powerful, and heavenly. He spoke the words of God.

And here's the question for us. What has Jesus been saying to your heart that you need to do today?

One author writes, "Throughout the Bible when God asked a man to do something - methods, means, materials, and specific directions were always provided. The man had just one thing to do... **obey.**"

Have you entered the narrow gate?

Are you walking the difficult path?

Are you among the faith-filled few?

Are you a fruit inspector?

Are you laying a good foundation?

Have you obeyed the words of Jesus to you?