

Home Group Discussion Questions

TBC SERMON SERIES: Learning From Jesus

Message #15: Narrow is the Way

Matthew 7:12-14

Chase Bowers

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To watch or listen to this sermon, go to www.templebiblechurch.org

MY STORY:

- 1) Have you ever encountered someone who resented the “narrow” or “exclusive” claims of Christianity? How did you respond to their concerns?

- 2) Have you ever struggled with the exclusive claims of Christianity yourself? Elaborate.

QUICK REVIEW:

This week we continue with our series Learning From Jesus, a look at the Sermon on the Mount. This is probably the most famous teaching section by Jesus found in Scripture, providing his disciples a contrasting framework for viewing their lives with each other and God than was popularly held. Was there anything from this week's sermon that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? How would you summarize the main ideas of this week's message?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Matthew 7:12.

- 1) How does this fulfill or summarize the law and the prophets?

- 2) For specific examples, how does this fulfill “do not lie”? “Do not commit adultery”?

- 3) In Matthew 22:36-40, Jesus gives two commands on which he says the law and the prophets depend. How does the second command, to “love your neighbor as yourself”, relate to the command to “treat others as you want to be treated” in this week's passage?

- 4) What drives us to treat others in a manner differently than we would want to be treated? In other words, why would we oppress or take advantage of others at times?

Read Matthew 7:13-14.

- 5) What do the two gates/paths represent? Elaborate. Does John 14:6 help shed light on this passage?
- 6) While the two paths have two distinct destinations, someone once pointed out that the “direction signs at the start of the paths would both list the same destination.” What would that be and why?
- 7) Why do you think Jesus says “few” find the narrow gate? Why does he say the way is “difficult”?
- 8) Do you think Jesus’s warning here is directed more towards his followers or those who are not following him? Why?

TAKING IT HOME:

- 1) Do you have a situation or a relationship where you are not treating someone the way you would like to be treated? How can you correct that this week?
- 2) An author once observed that there are more people using the wide gate and path because there is plenty of room for friends and baggage. The narrow gate is like a turnstile that you have to enter one at a time and it is hard to get much luggage through. What do you think about his observation? How does it compare to your own spiritual journey?

Prayer Requests:

