

# Scripture Reading

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## 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.

**14** Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

*Why Few Find The  
Narrow Way*

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# *Why Few Find The Narrow Way*

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*Because The Way Is Strict, Rigorous, & Difficult*

# Strict, Rigorous, Difficult

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- The word "strait" as used in the KJV, is not the word "straight" which means without curves, crooks or bends.
- It is spelled "s-t-r-a-i-t," which means nearly the same as the word "narrow" and means "being narrow, restricted, hemmed in, hard pressed." As Paul said, "I am in a strait betwixt the two..." **Phil. 1:23**
- Being a Christian takes your whole being
- **Matthew 22:37** Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

# Strict, Rigorous, Difficult

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- Moses said the people will not believe or hear me. (**Ex. 4**)
- **Exodus 4:10** Then Moses said to the Lord, “O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.”
- **Exodus 4:11** So the Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? 12 Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.”



# Strict, Rigorous, Difficult

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- There are many examples in the Scriptures of those who courageously accepted difficult challenges.
- Abraham left the Ur of Chaldees, not knowing where God was leading him for he looked for a city which has foundations. **Heb. 11:8-10**
- Noah was not one who shunned a difficult task. **Heb. 11:7**
- Rahab hid the Israelite spies from the King of Jericho because she had faith in the one true God. **Joshua 2:11**

# Strict, Rigorous, Difficult

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- **Luke 9:23** Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.
- **Romans 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.
- **2 Corinthians 4:17** For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

*Why Few Find The Narrow Way*

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***BECAUSE OF DECEPTION***



# Deception

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- **2 Corinthians 11:13** For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. **14** And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. **15** Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.
- **2 Peter 2:1** But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. **2** And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

# Deception

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- **Matthew 7:15** “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. **16** You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?”
- Billy Graham - "There are many right ways to heaven, but only one wrong way."
- **Ephesians 4:14** that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,



# Deception

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- **Colossians 2:18** Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,
- **Acts 17:11** These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.
- **1 John 4:1** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

# *Why Few Find The Narrow Way*

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*Because They **SUBMIT TO PEER PRESSURE***



# Submit To Peer Pressure

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- **John 9:18** But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. 19 And they asked them, saying, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” **20** His parents answered them and said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; **21** but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself.” **22** His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.

# Submit To Peer Pressure

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- **John 12:42** Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; **43** for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.
- **John 5:44** How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?



# Submit To Peer Pressure

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- **Matthew 10:37** 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.
- **Luke 14:26** “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

# *Why Few Find The Narrow Way*

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***PREOCCUPIED WITH WORLDLINESS OR MATERIALISM***



# Worldliness & Materialism

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- **Luke 8:14** Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.
- **Matthew 16:26** For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?
- They do not fear God. **Romans 3:18** *“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*
- **Romans 11:22** Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

# Worldliness & Materialism

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- **2 Thess. 1:6** since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, **7** and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, **8** in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,



# Worldliness & Materialism

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- For one to find the narrow way, he must come to have a genuine interest in saving his own soul and escaping the wrath of God.
- **Matthew 5:6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.
- **2 Thess. 2:10** and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

## *Why do only a few find the way that leads to life?*

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- Because the way is strict, rigorous and difficult.
- Because many have been deceived by false teachers.
- Because they succumb to the pressures of family, friends, or religious leaders.
- Because many are so preoccupied with the affairs of this life, they have no genuine interest in saving their own souls or escaping the wrath of God.
- Because many are prejudiced--blinded to the truth.
- Because we, as Christians, fail to tell them about the narrow way.



# *Jesus Gave Only Two Choices*

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- You can travel the easy road where nearly everyone is traveling.
- It is unrestricted. There is room for every opinion, doctrine and practice.
- You can do whatever comes naturally--be a lover of self, enjoy the pleasures of sin.
- There is no need of learning of the true religion or practicing it.
- Remember – This road leads to destruction, eternal damnation.

# *Jesus Gave Only Two Choices*

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- Or, you can travel the other road where there are only a few.
- This way is strict and difficult--setting before us a great challenge.
- Its boundaries are ordained by divine revelation—the way of truth.
- It requires sacrifice, self-denial, and obedience.
- But rest assured, this way leads to eternal life.



# Jesus Encourages

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## Matthew 7

13 *“Enter ye in...”*

14 *“...there are few who find it.”*