

The following content is based on the message on 8/9/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. It is not meant to be a full synopsis, but rather a resource to help you analyze and apply the main ideas. To use this devotional effectively, please listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

MONDAY // TWO ROADS

Read Matthew 7:13-14. Jesus is coming to the conclusion of His sermon on the mount. What He is saying here in this passage is built upon what He has already said. Jesus divides people into two different types of people. There are two roads that lead to very different destinations. In life, there are only two roads we can walk, but only one of them leads to life. Jesus says that the life-giving way is the narrow, or difficult way. The reason that way is the narrow way is because it must come through Jesus. This word from Jesus should make us reflect on what road we are traveling.

Jesus said we can be on one of two roads: one to life, one to destruction.

- *What are some ways that you are tempted to walk on the broad, easy road? Take time to reflect on this passage and the road you're on.*

TUESDAY // NARROW ROAD THINKING

Read John 14:5-6. What Jesus presents to us is different from most religious thinking. Jesus doesn't point to God and tell us how we get there. Jesus is God and He comes to find us where we are. The only way to God is to come to Him. We don't take our own path, but we come to Him and we follow. In order to enter the narrow way, we need to strip everything away from our lives that is not from Jesus. This is difficult for us because it is in our nature to try to achieve our way to God. We fall into the trap that being a good person is the way to be on the narrow road—but this is not the way of Jesus.

The only way through the gate is the gate itself—Jesus.

- *What are some things that you need to strip away in order to fit through the gate of Jesus?*
- *Set a five minute timer. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you how you have been walking on the broad road.*

WEDNESDAY // ABUNDANT LIFE

Read John 10:7-10. The narrow gate may feel constricting or like a burden, but Jesus wants us to be free. The narrow road isn't about being good or bad. The narrow road is about abiding in Jesus. When we abide in Jesus, we can live free from feeling the burden of working our way to God. Jesus wants you to experience an abundant life. The abundant life comes from transformation on the inside. Jesus wants to transform us from the inside, not inspire us to achieve more.

Narrowness leads to spaciousness.

- *What are some ways that you need to redefine what an "abundant life" is?*
- *Set a timer for five minutes. Ask God, "How can I align with Jesus' version of the abundant life for me?"*

THURSDAY // A BURDEN THAT IS LIGHT

Read Matthew 11:28-30. Most of us think that the way to Jesus is through doing spiritual disciplines. We think that we are on the narrow road by reading the Bible, giving, or going to church. While those are really good ways to get to know Jesus, sometimes we miss Him by trying too hard or doing too much. Jesus tells us that when we come to Him, we don't have to work to be in relationship with Him. He wants us to know that we are loved unconditionally. Anything that we do, like Bible reading and prayer, should be done in order to get to know Jesus better. We don't engage in spiritual disciplines in order to please God more.

God is already pleased with you if you have been yoked to Jesus.

- *Knowing that Jesus is already pleased with you, in what area of your life do you need to speak this truth over yourself today?*
- *Set a timer for five minutes. Sit in silence to meditate on the fact that Jesus loves you unconditionally.*

FRIDAY // THE NARROW ROAD IS FREE

Read Ephesians 2:4-10. You may still feel like the narrow road feels constricting. Well, it is. But it doesn't have to be constricting for you. It was constricting for Jesus. The narrow way crushed Jesus so that you wouldn't have to be crushed. Jesus' way through the gate is free for us. He gives it to us as a free gift. We just have to attach ourselves to Him rather than trying to go through ourselves.

The way through the narrow gate is free for us because Jesus paid the way.

- *In what way do you need to attach to Jesus today?*
- *Set a timer for five minutes. Meditate on the freedom that Jesus gives you as you sit with Him.*