

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

NOVEMBER 14, 2021

John Ortberg, Guest Pastor



This week, well-known author, speaker, and pastor, John Ortberg, continued in our series on the Sermon on the Mount. John explained the meaning of the narrow and wide gate Jesus refers to in Matthew chapter 7. The narrow gate does not represent those who “get in” to heaven, it represents the devotion to being a disciple of Jesus, in humble obedience to him. This obedience leads to freedom to love as Jesus loved, to go beyond tolerance of those who are different than “us”, spiritually, politically, sexually – in any and all ways. Jesus led the way of the narrow gate, and he walks with each one of us as we navigate that same path.

SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 7:13-14 NASB

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is constricted that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

MATTHEW 7:13-14 THE MESSAGE

“Don’t look for shortcuts to God. The market is flooded with surefire, easygoing formulas for a successful life that can be practiced in your spare time. Don’t fall for that stuff, even though crowds of people do. The way to life—to God!—is vigorous and requires total attention.

MATTHEW 7:1-5 NLT

“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. ² For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. ³ “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? ⁴ How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? ⁵ Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.

MATTHEW 7:1-5 THE MESSAGE

“Don’t pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging. It’s easy to see a smudge on your neighbor’s face and be oblivious to the ugly sneer on your own. Do you have the nerve to say, ‘Let me wash your face for you,’ when your own face is distorted by contempt? It’s this whole traveling road-show mentality all over again, playing a holier-than-thou part instead of just living your part. Wipe that ugly sneer off your own face, and you might be fit to offer a washcloth to your neighbor.

MATTHEW 6:43-48 THE MESSAGE

You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that.

"In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out from John Ortberg's message?
2. Read Matthew 7:13-14 in a couple translations. Describe the two gates Jesus teaches about?
3. What is required to enter the narrow gate?
4. Read Matthew 7:1-5, 12. What does Jesus preach before the gates?
5. How does this compare to Matthew 6:43-48?
6. Devotion and obedience to God lead to the narrow gate. What are ways of devotion and obedience to God?
7. As you look at your walk with Jesus, how have you been trying to enter the narrow gate? Have your thoughts changed? If so, how?
8. How can we pray for you?

PRAYER

Thank Jesus for his teaching of humility and love, for giving us the gate to enter into life. Ask for the Spirit to convict you when you wander off the narrow path into anything less than devotion and obedience.