



# BROAD AND NARROW

*John 10:9 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.*

*I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

## **Read Matthew 7:13-14**

We are living in society that would define itself as pluralistic (multiethnic and multicultural); this society tells us we can all be right about anything and everything we want to believe is true. However, this week we learned that this cultural idea of subjectivity is one that ultimately leads to death. If someone challenges the status quo and asserts that they have “truth,” and other people are wrong, we quickly cast them off as narrow-minded. Yet, Jesus calls his disciples to be narrow, strait, or confined to the gospel in order to find freedom and joy.

***Who is the most narrow-minded person you know? (Be nice if they are in the room.)***

***What is it about that person that irritates you?***

***What are you narrow-minded about?***

***Why does it bother us to be labeled “narrow-minded?”***

Our culture understands that if you want to be a good doctor or a great musician you have to be narrow in your focus, it has to be an all-consuming passion. So, at some level, we acknowledge culturally that in order to find success in a given area you have to be narrow to find fullness. Jesus takes this paradox of narrowness leading to fullness and applies it to the spiritual realm.

***Why do you think people back away from the narrow path when referring to spiritual issues?***

For those who like simplicity, it does not get any clearer than Christ’s teaching on the narrowness of who He is. Jesus says’ in **John 14:6 “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”** This is a black and white statement, Jesus is saying there are two roads and two roads only.



***Can you name anything else in life where there are only two roads?***

***When in conversation with others about Jesus, do you find yourself focusing on the broad road or the narrow?***

In the sermon, Aaron said, “The gospel on the outside looks incredibly small and cramped, when you get inside, it’s unbelievably spacious. The alternatives to the gospel look incredibly broad, spacious, free and tolerant, but on the inside, they’re cramped and narrow.” Most people don’t like to have the reality of the broad and narrow roads pointed out, we are more than content to live in our own delusions of tolerance, even when tolerance leads away from true life.

***Why does our culture crave to live on the broad road?***

***How do you, in your conversations, shy away from the narrow road?***

The desire to be good enough, to find yourself pleasing God, the attempt to earn your own salvation through your works is the broad road. Even we understanding the truth of the Gospel we still find ourselves working to earn the love that Jesus gave us freely; we attempt to comfort ourselves by the idea that God will love us if we do enough good. This is a lie and does not line up with the true intentions of Jesus. We are saved by grace and if we focus on anything that *we do* to find fulfillment, we will end up empty.

***How has relying on your own “goodness” left you empty?***

***Why is it so hard to trust in grace?***

When we come to a place in our lives, where we understand that there is no room on the road for our own pride or righteousness, we can begin to live in greater freedom. We can realize our worth does not depend on what we have accomplished, but what Jesus has accomplished on our behalf. The narrow way of trusting Jesus has lead to the broad areas of true and lasting life.