■■■ - Entering the Narrow Gate

by Paul Washer

Paul Washer emphasizes the necessity of entering the narrow gate through true repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, highlighting the cost of discipleship and the transformative power of genuine faith.

Duration: 48:28
Scripture: Matthew 7:13
Topics: "Chinese"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes that getting saved is easy, as all one needs to do is believe and pray. However, he also highlights that there are difficult decisions that need to be made in the process. He uses the analogy of a camel passing through the eye of a needle to illustrate the challenge of leaving behind worldly possessions and desires to follow God. The preacher clarifies that being a Christian does not mean being poor or lacking education, but it does require leaving behind worldly hopes and following God wholeheartedly. He urges the audience to examine their faith and ensure that they are truly walking with Christ.

Transcript

Let's open our Bibles to Matthew chapter 7. I'm going to ask Brother Larry to read from verse 13 through 23. ■■■■■,■■■■■■■■■,■■■■■■■,■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■,■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■■?■■■■■■■■■■■? ■■,■■■■■■■■■,■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■,■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■,■■■■■■■■■■ ■■,■■■■■■■■,■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■■■,■■■■■■■, ■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■,■■■■■■■■,■■■■■, ■■■■■■■■■■,■■■■■■,■■■■■■■■■■? ■■■■■■■■■■■, ■■■■■■■■■,■■■■■■■■,■■■■■■■ Let's go to the Lord in prayer. ■■■■■ Father, I pray that your Holy Spirit would illumine our minds.

■,■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ That we might understand your word. ■■■■■■■■■ That the Holy Spirit would renew hearts. ■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ That they might respond to that word, Lord.

■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ That they might be saved. ■■■■■■■■ Lord, the words of the man are pathetic. ■■■■■■■■■■■■■ They have no strength.

■■■■■■ Lord, your Spirit. ■■■■■■■■ Taking your word. ■■■■■■■ Doing surgery upon the heart of a man.

[redacted] Lord, what is impossible for us is possible for you. [redacted] Lord, will so many perish without the gospel? [redacted] Lord, you know you owe nothing to any man. [redacted] But I pray, Lord, that you would spare some.

[redacted] And present them to your Son. [redacted] In Jesus' name. [redacted] In this first verse, in chapter 13, verse 13.

[redacted] 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. [redacted] Here we see both a gate and a way. [redacted] We enter into the way by passing through a gate.

[redacted] That gate or that door is Jesus Christ. [redacted] And we are called to enter through that gate. [redacted] Now the scriptures are clear.

[redacted] There is only one Savior. [redacted] And it is Jesus Christ. [redacted] And we say that as Christians.

[redacted] And that is why the world hates us. [redacted] Do you realize that many of the Christians in the Roman Empire. [redacted] They were persecuted as atheists.

[redacted] That was their crime. [redacted] You say well that doesn't make any sense. [redacted] They say how can a Christian be charged as an atheist.

[redacted] This is the reason. [redacted] The Christian denied all other gods. [redacted] The Christian came to the Roman Empire.

[redacted] And said no. [redacted] All your gods are false. [redacted] Your religions are false.

[redacted] There is only one God. [redacted] And one savior. [redacted] The son of God.

[redacted] Jesus of Nazareth. [redacted] And for this reason the Christians were hated. [redacted] Now, I want you to think about something.

[redacted] If the Christians had come to Rome. [redacted] And said this. [redacted] Jesus is a savior.

[redacted] They would not have had a problem. [redacted] Because they would be saying this. [redacted] There are many saviors.

[redacted] Jesus is one of them. [redacted] Your savior is good. [redacted] But so is Jesus.

[redacted] The same thing happens today in America. [redacted] If I were to change just one word in my preaching. [redacted] I would be a very popular preacher.

[redacted] All I would have to do is do this. [redacted] Stop using the word the. [redacted] And use the word a. [redacted] Instead of saying Jesus is the savior.

[redacted] All I have to do is say Jesus is a savior. [redacted] And everyone would love me. [redacted] If you go into other religions of the world.

[redacted] Buddhism. [redacted] Hinduism. [redacted] Even the Muslim faith.

[redacted] If you would just say that you're right. [redacted] But Jesus is also a savior. [redacted] He's my savior.

[redacted] You may have another one. [redacted] And that's okay. [redacted] But Jesus is mine.

[redacted] You wouldn't have a problem. [redacted] The world hates you because you tell the world that it is wrong. [redacted] This is why the nations hated the Jews in the Old Testament.

[redacted] At least when the nation was walking with God. [redacted] Because the pagan nations [redacted] they had all kinds of gods. [redacted] They had thousands of gods.

[redacted] And they were willing to say that Jehovah could be one of those gods. [redacted] But the Jews said no. [redacted] Jehovah is the only god.

[redacted] Hear oh Israel. [redacted] The Lord our God. [redacted] The Lord is one.

[redacted] You see that's what you need to see today. [redacted] If you believe [redacted] what the Bible says about Jesus [redacted] the world will hate you. [redacted] But if you start preaching a Jesus [redacted] that is not the Jesus of the Bible [redacted] the world will love you.

[redacted] But Jesus looked at himself. [redacted] And he said I am the way [redacted] the truth and the life and no one comes to God except through me. [redacted] All those who came before me [redacted] they were false.

[redacted] All those who come after me [redacted] they are false. [redacted] It's me. [redacted] I am the incarnation of God.

[redacted] That's what Jesus taught. [redacted] Now, if you will just say Yes, that's what Jesus taught. [redacted],[redacted],[redacted] And I reject it.

[redacted] That's better than denying that he taught it. [redacted] That's why liberal Christianity is not Christianity at all. [redacted] It's absolutely useless.

[redacted] It's lost its reason for existing. [redacted] Again, let me say this. [redacted] In the Christian life, [redacted], in Christianity, [redacted], it's all about one person.

[redacted] It's about Jesus. [redacted] Do you realize that Christianity is not necessarily a moralistic religion? [redacted] For example, [redacted], if you become a Buddhist, [redacted], what does that mean? [redacted]? You follow things that he said. [redacted] And by doing certain things that he said, [redacted]? You find some sort of peace.

[redacted] Become a Muslim. [redacted], you follow certain rules. [redacted], [redacted] And by doing those certain rules, [redacted], you save yourself.

[redacted] Christianity is completely different. [redacted] It's not about a set of rules. [redacted] That if you carry them out, [redacted], you will be saved.

No, Christianity is about this. [redacted], it's about a person, [redacted], who saves us. [redacted] And we love him.

[redacted] And we cling to him. [redacted] And we trust in him alone. [redacted] And we honor him.

[redacted] It's about a person, [redacted], who died, [redacted], and rose again, [redacted] To pay for our sins. [redacted], [redacted] And the Bible says that we are to enter through that gate. [redacted] Now how do we enter through that gate? [redacted]? We do so by repentance and faith.

[redacted], [redacted] God calls every man to repent. [redacted] And to believe the gospel. [redacted] Now this is where historical Christianity, [redacted],[redacted], and modern day Christianity, [redacted], are completely different.

[redacted] How do you enter into Christianity according to the preachers today? [redacted], [redacted]? You repeat a prayer. [redacted] Just pick up any tract. [redacted] In the back of the tract, what does it say? [redacted]? If you want to be a Christian, [redacted], pray this prayer.

[redacted] Is that not true? [redacted]? And if you pray the prayer, [redacted]? At the end of the tract it says this. [redacted],[redacted], Congratulations! [redacted]! You're a Christian! [redacted]! Welcome into the family of God! [redacted]! Or there's an evangelistic crusade. [redacted] And the preacher gets everybody to bow their head and close their eyes.

[redacted], [redacted],[redacted] They lower the lights. [redacted] They play soft music. [redacted] The preacher begins to talk very softly.

[redacted] How many of you want to be saved? [redacted]? You don't have to be ashamed. [redacted] No one will look at you. [redacted] Raise your hand.

[redacted] Then when you raise your hand, [redacted] They go, I see that hand. [redacted],[redacted] Now you can't escape. [redacted] I know who you are.

[redacted] Now come forward. [redacted] Come forward. [redacted] Remember, I saw you.

[redacted],[redacted] And then, they'll even do this. [redacted] They'll put Christians in the audience. [redacted] And have them come forward.

[redacted] [redacted],[redacted] And then they come forward. [redacted] Do you want to be saved? [redacted]? Yes. [redacted] Then pray this prayer.

[redacted] And ask Jesus into your heart. [redacted] They all pray the prayer. [redacted] And then the preacher says this.

[redacted], Welcome into the family of God. [redacted] Now I'm not making this up, am I? [redacted]? Many of you are smiling. [redacted] You've seen this happen.

[redacted] Over and over and over. [redacted] That's why practically everybody in North America is a Christian. [redacted] And almost no one lives like one.

[redacted] Then you say, Brother Paul, I got saved in something like that. [redacted] You did not get saved because of it. [redacted] You got saved in spite of it.

[redacted] Even through the heresy of men. [redacted] God can still save souls. [redacted] And for that we are appreciative.

[redacted] Look at what we're doing. [redacted]? That's what it means to enter in. [redacted] Just hold your place for a moment and go to Revelation chapter 3 verse 20.

This is a famous verse. The preacher will say this. Verse 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him and he with me. And then the preacher says, God is knocking at the door of your heart. But the handle of the heart is only on the inside.

God can't come in unless you open the door. And how do you open the door? By prayer. You open the door and ask Jesus to come in.

And so what do you do?

You pray the prayer. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] Is either already in your country, or it's coming there.

Reject it.

And stay with the scriptures. And stay with church history. Salvation is by faith alone.

But those who have believed, they have become new creatures. Regenerated by the Holy Spirit. And they will begin to live a different life.

And so we go back to Matthew. Enter through the narrow gate. Now this is a narrow gate.

It is a restrictive gate. It's hard to press through. Kind of like a camel through the eye of a needle.

It's hard to get through there. All the stuff that you're carrying on your back. All the world that you're carrying with you.

It's not going to go through there with you. And you've got to make a decision. Stay in this world.

And keep your stuff. And die and go to hell. Or reject the world.

And pass through the gate. Now I'm not saying here that Christians have to be poor to be saved. I'm not saying that you should not go get a good education.

I'm not saying that God can't bless your life in every way. But all the hopes you have of this world, you have to leave behind to follow Him. To follow Him.

The narrow gate. I would recommend to every one of you to read one of the most important books ever written. It is one of the best illustrations of this passage.

And it's translated in Chinese. It's the Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan. What's amazing is this.

Almost all the preachers today say it's a wonderful book. But almost every one of them preach a different message than what's found in that book. The gospel they preach totally contradicts Bunyan's gospel.

I can go almost everywhere and say, what do you think about Charles Spurgeon? And people say he's the greatest preacher who ever lived. He's the apostle. And I say, then why do you preach completely opposite of him? You see, true conversion is faith in Christ.

That faith is costly. Let's pray. Father, I thank you for your word.

And I pray, dear God, that you would use it to bring people to Christ that they would enter in. God help them. In Jesus' name.

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