

# Matthew 7:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

## Analysis

Jesus contrasts two paths: 'Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat' (Greek: στενὴ ἡ πύλη καὶ τεθλιμμένη ἡ ὁδός, 'narrow the gate and constricted the way'). The 'wide gate' and 'broad way' suggest easy, popular path requiring little sacrifice. It 'leads to destruction' (ἀπώλειαν) - eternal ruin, not annihilation. 'Many' travel this path - majority does not determine truth. The imagery evokes Deuteronomy 30:15-20's choice between life and death, blessing and curse. The easy path is deceptive - comfortable now but catastrophic eternally.

## Historical Context

Two-ways teaching was common in Jewish and early Christian instruction (Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Jeremiah 21:8, Didache 1-6, Barnabas 18-20). Jesus' audience, mostly poor peasants, might have expected the elite's path to be narrow and difficult, but Jesus reverses this - the popular path leads to destruction regardless of who travels it. Early Christians, a persecuted minority, found comfort in this teaching - their narrow, difficult path was correct despite societal opposition.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What makes the broad path attractive yet ultimately destructive?
2. How does cultural popularity or majority opinion mislead regarding truth and life?
3. What specific 'narrow gate' choices challenge you to swim against cultural currents?

## Interlinear Text

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εἰσερχόμενοι δι' οἱ στενῆς πύλη ὅτι πλατεῖα οἱ

Enter ye in at which the strait gate for wide which  
G1525 G1223 G3588 G4728 G4439 G3754 G4116 G3588

πύλη καὶ εὐρύχωρος οἱ ὁδὸς οἱ ἀπάγουσα εἰς

gate and broad which is the way which that leadeth to  
G4439 G2532 G2149 G3588 G3598 G3588 G520 G1519

οἱ ἀπώλειαν καὶ πολλοί εἰσιν οἱ εἰσερχόμενοι δι'

which destruction and many there be which Enter ye in at  
G3588 G684 G2532 G4183 G1526 G3588 G1525 G1223

αὐτῆς.

G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 16:25** (Parallel theme): There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

**John 14:6** (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**John 10:9** (Parallel theme): I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

**Isaiah 55:7** (Parallel theme): Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

**Proverbs 9:6** (Parallel theme): Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

**Galatians 5:24** (Parallel theme): And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

**Matthew 3:2** (Parallel theme): And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

**Matthew 3:8** (Parallel theme): Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

**Revelation 20:15** (Parallel theme): And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

**Matthew 23:13** (Parallel theme): But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.