

Ask, seek, and knock for narrow is the road that leads to eternal life / Text Matthew 7:7-14

1. What is the purpose of all of our asking, seeking and knocking?

2. If we want to accomplish all the Lord wants for us in this life we must always desire more of Him. Just as a natural river flows into lowly places, so the river of God always flows into the lowly places. In order to enter it we must go lower still. When we are bent down, bowed down, and laid down then we will find him...this my friends is the humility of prayer. Q> Is the Lord calling you to bend bow down today so He can better flow into you?

3. The first thing the Lord wants us to do according to our text is to A _____
4. *Matthew 21:22 (ESV) And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.*” When we ask for something in Jesus name, it needs to be something that Jesus would want.
John 16:24 (ESV) Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. To ask in His name means we are praying for things within God’s will.
James 4:3 (ESV) You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.
5. The second thing the Lord wants us to do according to our text is to S _____
6. The last thing the Lord wants us to do according to our text is to K _____
7. *John 1:12 (ESV) But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.* We need to ask out of a heart of obedience.
1 John 3:21-22 (ESV) Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.
8. What is the purpose of God giving us blessings when we ask?

9. It says in verse 13: *“Enter through the narrow gate.”* We see immediately that there’s an action that must be taken – we must actually enter through the narrow gate. Why must we actually enter through the gate...what if we do not?

10. The gate of Christ is n _____, it always has been and it always will be. The narrow road. Once we enter the narrow gate, we are to walk the “narrow road that leads to life.” This word for “narrow” road is a bit different than the one used for the narrow gate. It has the idea of being compressed, and was used of a “grape press.” It means to be squeezed or crushed, to suffer affliction. One pastor offers this warning: “The true gate is both narrow and difficult. Discipleship is difficult and demanding.
11. The creator of the universe made himself l _____ then low suffering for our sake so those who place their faith in Him would not have to suffer...so He could call us to the narrow road, the road that leads to e _____ life. May the Lord bless us as a church and individuals as we lead other people to the narrow road the same one we have been blessed to walk.
12. What is the Lord telling you in today’s message? How does it apply to your life and where our church is at this time?

Going Deeper – Further Bible study on the sermon text of Matthew 7:7-14

1. What is Jesus' instruction in Matthew 7:7 and how is it supported in verses 8-11?

2. How would Matthew 7:7 relate to you as you seek to fulfill all that Jesus teaches in the Sermon on the Mount up to this point?

3. According to Matthew 7:12, How should you treat others? In the light of the context of verses 7-11 what should be your motive for treating people the way Jesus instructs us?

4. In Jesus' instruction He refers to the Law and the Prophets. Look up the following verses and note how they tie in the in to the righteousness of those who belong to the kingdom of God.
 - a. Romans 3:20-22

 - b. Matthew 5:17, 20

5. Matthew 7:12 brings the discussion of the law to a conclusion with "In everything, therefore..."
 - a. How does this summarize Jesus' teaching from Matthew 5:17 to this point?

 - b. How does Matthew 22:33-40 confirm this?

6. Jesus tells us to persist in pursuing God. People often give up after a few halfhearted efforts and conclude that they cannot find God. Knowing God takes faith, focus, and follow-through, and Jesus assures us that we will be rewarded. Don't give up in your efforts to seek God, even when the doors seem closed. Continue to ask him for more knowledge, patience, wisdom, love, and understanding. He will give them to you.¹

¹ Barton, B. B. (1996). *Matthew* (p. 133). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

7. One of Jesus' self-descriptions was of a gate: "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved" (John 10:9 NIV). In Jesus' invitation to enter the narrow gate, he described two lives. Each life has a "gate" consistent with its "way." People *take* the wide gateway, but they *find* the narrow gateway. The wide gateway that leads to destruction defines the normal human experience, except for the few who find and enter the narrow gateway. Jesus' invitation to enter confronts the disciples with the gate itself. They have *found* the gate; he is standing before them. They can enter by trusting him completely. The invitation still stands. Those who recognize that they have entered the wide gateway that leads to destruction may still enter the way to life through Jesus Christ. Which gateway represents your life right now?²

² Barton, B. B. (1996). *Matthew* (p. 136). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.