

Directions to heaven Matt 7.13-14

Summary

Jesus here gives us directions to heaven. Let's check the map and then check our lives to see whether we are still on the right track.

1. Through the small gate.

Beginning a relationship with Jesus is not an easy thing. Squeezing through the gate means humbling ourselves and leaving everything behind. This is a massive and costly decision and should not be taken lightly.

2. Along the narrow road

The Greek word "thlibo" here means compressed, squeezed, troubled... and is used in John 16.33, 2 Cor 4.8 and Acts 14.22 as well as many other places. The Christian life leads through a gorge where the walls press in on us. If you have been having a tough time following Jesus, congratulations! You are on the right road. If everything is going according to your plan and it's all smooth sailing, then maybe you have missed the way! Proverbs 14.12.

Bonhoeffer, *"When Jesus calls a man he bids him come and die."*

3. Check the traffic

You will know the road to heaven because there are not many people on it.

You will know the road to hell because there are loads of people on it.

Will only a few be saved? Luke 13.24

The map says you are on the right road if it's lonely at times, if you're going in a different direction from most people, if people mock you or just don't understand you. Jer 15.17

You are possibly on the wrong road if you're trying to keep up with the Joneses or pursuing popularity, if you constantly worry about what other people think of you and if you are pursuing the same things as your neighbours who don't believe in Jesus.

4. Arrive Heaven

Jesus speaks of 2 destinations, life and destruction, heaven and hell.

The destination is more important than the journey, because you will spend forever there. People get what people choose

The journey will be tough, but the destination is worth it!

Questions for personal application

1. What did you have to leave behind to become a Christian?
2. Has your road been difficult recently? How has Jesus helped you through?
3. Is God calling you to do something difficult? How do you feel?
4. Has it all been plain sailing? Should you be worried?
5. Discuss Luke 13.24
6. Do you worry about what people think of you? How can you be free from this?
7. What are you most looking forward to about heaven?
8. How can you keep the destination more important than the journey?
9. What else did God say to you on Sunday and what are you going to do as a result?