

Adventure on the Narrow Road

The Narrow Road – part 3

January 19, 2025

DAY 1. Follow Me: a purposeful adventure

Matthew 7:13 Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

1. In the dictionary the word adventure has three meanings.

- (a) an exciting or very unusual experience,
- (b) participate in exciting undertakings or enterprises: *the spirit of adventure*.
- (c) a bold, usually risky undertaking; hazardous action of uncertain outcome.

2. In this sense, becoming a Christian and learning to live as a follower of Christ is an adventure in the old English way of understanding adventure. It is a journey with a destination, with some unknowns, uncertainties, and dangers, but worth the journey.

3. If last week, the beginnings of new life as a Christian is reflected in the newness and refreshment of the beach, what is the metaphor the Christian's adventure?

The metaphor: walking the trail through the forest.

4. In the forest there are several very different realities:

- (a) Keep to the path, the trail through the forest.
- (b) Do not take side trails. Stay on the clearly marked trail.
- (c) The trail may be partially hidden by the forest and bends in the trail.
- (d) There are some dangers walking through a forest.

3. Becoming a Christian is not just about avoiding hell and gaining heaven. It is not just a new theology or a new world view. It includes those things, but it is bigger than a different set of knowledge and beliefs.

4. Becoming a Christian launches us into living a new life, following Jesus Christ in our daily life. We are primarily living for Him and for His redemptive purposes, learning His character to be more like Him. Why? Our old life, with us in charge, was the wide road to destruction. The narrow road leads to life.

5. We do this also because of what He has done for us at the cross, what He is doing in and through us now, and for what He will do for us eternally.

6. What strikes you about walking the Narrow Road – God's adventure?

DAY 2. Follow Me: as a disciple, a learner

SERMONS WE SEE – Edgar Guest

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear,
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear;
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,
For to see good put in action is what everybody needs. (verse 1)

*Luke 9:23 Whoever wants to be **my disciple** must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and **follow me**.*

1. “Disciple” means a learner, and a follower.
2. In Jesus’ times disciples were not just people sitting in a classroom, hearing lectures. Disciples traveled with their teachers, hearing them teach, but also watching how they lived and related. Jesus’ disciple did this for over three years!

*Mark 3:14 He appointed twelve that they might **be with him** and that he might send them out to preach...*

3. This is referred to as the “with him” principle.
4. Notice, they were first called to be learners, and second to be doers.

*Luke 6:40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained **will be like** his teacher.*

5. To be more and more like Christ is our goal!

*Matthew 11:28 “**Come to me**, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

6. Becoming more like Jesus
 - a. Begins with coming to Jesus over and over again.
 - b. Finding rest in Him, learning from Him,
 - c. Learning to reflect these realities of Jesus to your relationships!
7. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 3: Follow Me: Loving God, loving people

SERMONS WE SEE – Edgar Guest

I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done;
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.
And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do;
For I might misunderstand you and the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live. (Verse 2)

1. Jesus was asked, out of all the commandments in the Old Testament, as which there are hundreds, what is the most important commandment?

Matt. 22:37-40 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and great commandment, and a second is, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments stand all the law and prophets.

2. What strikes you from Jesus' answer?

Mark 1:35 In the morning, a great while before day, Jesus went to an isolated place and prayed.

Loving God:

3. The disciples saw Jesus do this as a way of life, a pattern. If you had been with Jesus every day and saw this as a pattern in His life how would that have affected you?

John 13:34 A new commandment I give you that you love one another as I have loved you. By this all men will know that you are My disciples if you love one another.

Loving people:

4. This is a *command!* What strikes you about this command?

*John 13:1 Having loved his own who were in the world, **he loved them to the end.***

⁴ *so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.*

⁵ *After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

5. The disciples saw Jesus love God and love people. His instructions to do so were important, but what they saw were examples of how to love God and people!

6. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 4. Follow Me: reaching people, teaching people

SERMONS WE SEE – Edgar Guest

When I see a deed of kindness, I am eager to be kind.
When a weaker brother stumbles and a strong man stays behind
Just to see if he can help him, then the wish grows strong in me
To become as big and thoughtful as I know that friend to be.
And all travelers can witness that the best of guides today
Is not the one who tells them, but the one who shows the way. (verse 3)

1. One of America's values has been known as a "rough individualism." In one sense it reflects some good values: diligence, taking personal responsibility, no excuses, "get-'er-done" mentality, etc. But it also reflects some naïve and foolish values: "I don't need anybody. I know what to do. Don't tell me what to do. I can handle it," etc.

2. It negatively assumes that my life is all wrapped around me.

3. But following Jesus on the Narrow Road is about more than me!

*Matthew 4:19 **Follow Me**, and I will make you fishers of men.*

*Matthew 6:33 But **seek first His kingdom** and His righteousness, and all these things will be yours as well.*

→ We have an eternal purpose that is as grand as living for God's ultimate kingdom, and as small as the individuals He's placed in your life!

Colossians 1:28 Him we proclaim, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

4. In the following verses, underline all the ideas that God uses us for a purpose beyond ourselves.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

5. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 5. Follow Me: becoming Christ-like

SERMONS WE SEE – Edgar Guest

One good man teaches many, men believe what they behold;
One deed of kindness noticed is worth forty that are told.
Who stands with men of honor learns to hold his honor dear,
For right living speaks a language which to every one is clear.
Though an able speaker charms me with his eloquence, I say,
I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one, any day. (verse 4)

1. As C.S. Lewis said, the great purpose of God is to make us little Christs.

*Matthew 6:33 But **seek first** His kingdom and **His righteousness**, and all these things will be yours as well.*

2. While God is building Christlikeness in us, **we are to seek it.**

*Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son...***

As fellow travelers, a team (the church)

3. In the following verses, jot down how we become more like Christ.

Pr. 13:20 He who walks with wise men becomes wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm.

Ecclesiastes 4:9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: ¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. ¹² Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Ephesians 4:11 And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers to equip the believers for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

*Ephesians 4:13 ...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.***

4. The Christian journey on the Narrow Road is not a solo hike. In the book Pilgrim's Progress, God gave Christian a traveling companion named Faithful.

5. This phase of our Christian life in a metaphor of ADVENTURE, THE FOREST. Walk through the forest with a companion or in a group. Look out for forest's dangers during the day. Look out for side trails. Keep campfires burning at night to keep the wolves at bay. Keep following the trusted guide when the trail takes sudden turns, when you can't see what's ahead.

6. What strikes you from today's devotional?