

The Teacher walked many paths and roads, and entered through many doorways and gates throughout His ministry. I remember Him saying,

*Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*¹

One might have thought that He was referring to His preference to minister to the small towns and villages in the land and the common people who lived there as opposed to the drama of the big city of Jerusalem. But the real meaning had to do with our journey to God.

Jesus also said,

*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*²

As He described Himself as the “Way”, what He was really saying was “few there be that find Him”. In fact, there were few that were even searching for Him. This is still a problem today. He is the bread of life³ and the Word of Truth^{4,5}, but the world in general is not interested in Him.

Christ’s purpose in coming to earth was so that God could be found more directly. He became a focal point for mankind to see the presence of their Creator. Though Jesus spoke of the gate and road that lead to life as being narrow, the approach to God is really wide open. It is our perception (or lack of it) that makes them seem so small. In truth, the way is large enough for us to enter and pass through safely, and we can approach the throne of grace with confidence⁶ because of the perfect High Priest that we have in Christ⁷.

He came to earth to draw us near to God⁸, and we should be drawn by His Love⁹ and the sacrifice of His Son¹⁰. If this does not attract us to Him, we are lost. He will not force people to love Him; but we will all eventually bow down before Him.

Many found Christ at the beginning of His ministry and flocked to Him, but as they expected a different type of Messiah, most eventually turned away and rejected Him. He was seen as “uncomely” as was prophesied by Isaiah. This was certainly so¹¹; most definitely at the crucifixion, but this also applicable before that when His teachings became objectionable to many in His audience¹² as they realized their full meaning. Jesus had to accept this (and He died because of it), but regardless He offered Himself to all. He bore our punishment, died, and then conquered death because He loved us.

He wants us to find Him. From a lowly beginning, and an even more lowly end¹³, His impact on the world was supremely powerful¹⁴. Ultimately, though, He pursued His relationship with God above all (as we ourselves should do).

Jesus draws us to Him; He does not bind us without our approval. But He is bound to us as He was bound to the cross. His love for us cannot be broken and nothing has the power to separate us from it¹⁵. He will not lose us (as long as we find Him). We must therefore bind ourselves to Him and never let go.

1. Matthew 7:13-14

2. John 14:6
3. John 6:35
4. John 1:14
5. John 17:12
6. Hebrews 4:16
7. Hebrews 4:14-15
8. John 6:44 and Hebrews 10:22
9. John 3:16
10. Hebrews 7:19
11. see Isaiah 52-53
12. John 6:60-69
13. 1 Corinthians 1:18
14. think of the effect of a butterfly's wings on the other side of the world
15. Romans 8:38-39

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