



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title:** Narrow Path, Spacious Life

**Speaker:** Rich Villodas – Lead Pastor

**Scriptures:** Matthew 5:1-2 & Matthew 7:13-14

**The Narrow and Wide Gates**

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.

**Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount**

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

- 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.
- 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.
- 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday, Pastor Rich will kick off a brand new series entitled The Narrow Path. We will journey through the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) for the first three months of the year. We will patiently work through what is regarded as the best sermon ever preached. Additionally, Pastor Rich is inviting us to commit some or all of the Sermon on the Mount to memory by the end of the series in late March.

**Sermon Questions:**

1. How have you interpreted or heard others interpret the narrow path that Jesus talks about in Matthew 7:13-14? How do they compare with how Pastor Rich described it: “The Narrow Path is a way of ordering your life around the presence of Jesus and his teachings.”
2. Where are you desiring greater spaciousness in your life (physically or metaphorically)?

3. Did you resonate with the metaphor of the small tent from Harry Potter (from the outside they look restrictive but when you get on the inside it leads to a spaciousness of life) as a picture of the narrow path? Why or why not?
4. The temptation for all of us is to get ahead of Jesus or believe that we know better than him. What is an area you are feeling the temptation to get ahead of Jesus right now?
5. Following the narrow path requires slow and deliberate living. In order to take the narrow path, you have to let some things go. What might God be inviting you to let go of to follow the narrow path?
6. Pray and ask God for wisdom and strength to follow the narrow path.