



5 MINUTE LESSONS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The End Is Near

It amazes me that both the Apostle Peter and the Apostle Paul knew their time of death was near.

Peter states,

“¹⁴I know that I’m to die soon; the Master has made that quite clear to me. ¹⁵And so I am especially eager that you have all this down in black and white so that after I die, you’ll have it for ready reference.”
(2 Peter 1:14-15 The Message Bible)

And Paul says,

“⁶As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. ⁸And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:6-8 New Living Translation)

The Bible tells us that death is an enemy of man (1 Corinthians 15:26). The Bible also tells us that man is in fear of death, and in bondage to death (Hebrews 2:15) and the power of death that comes from the devil (Hebrews 2:14). The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

The Apostle Paul tells us,

*“⁵³For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.
⁵⁴Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled:
“Death is swallowed up in victory.
⁵⁵O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?”
⁵⁶For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. ⁵⁷But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (1 Corinthians 15:53-57 NLT)

I used to work in a hospital and some nursing homes and I’ve watched people die. What I am sharing with you are things I have witnessed or seen.

One man I saw dying spent his last days on earth wishing he was on a lake fishing. His fishing pole was in his hand at his hospital bed. He took no time to prepare himself to meet God. In a few days his life on earth had ended. He did not set his mind on things above, but on the things of this earth (Colossians 3:2 NASB).

One man, as I just came on my shift, was praying. He was embarrassed when he saw me. He called me over to the hospital bed. He said, "Son, I am trying to pray, but I just don't think I am getting through." The sad thing was, the next day when I came on my shift, he was gone, he had died. I often wondered, had he put off a decision to follow Christ (as so many do) until it was too late? Possibly thinking, "I've got plenty of time." Today if you will hear his voice, do not harden your heart (Hebrews 3:7-11).

I saw a woman, her name was Maggie. She entered into the presence of the Lord even before her actual death. If you had gone into her room, you would have heard her talking to the Lord. Her final days and moments on earth were earth shaking and convicting to all the hospital staff who didn't know the Lord. God's presence was in her hospital room and everyone knew it. It shook up that hospital.

Then there was Johnny. Johnny, moments before his death, looked up at the ceiling and said, "Lord, it is so beautiful!" Then he was gone. The angels came and took him (Luke 16:22).

I've seen peace and I've seen fear (Hebrews 2:14-15).

I saw a man that should have been dead. His vitals showed he should not have been alive, but his fear of death, pushed him to stay alive a few more days than was normal.

Why am I sharing this with you? Because there are two gates and two roads before you, and one of them you will enter (Matthew 7:13-14).

Questions

1 Read Matthew 7:13-14.

*"¹³Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:
¹⁴Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." - Matthew 7:13-14*

Is it true that all roads lead to God?

Yes or No

2 Read Matthew 7:13-14.

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¹⁴Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” - Matthew 7:13-14*

In these two verses, Jesus is stating that there are two gates. What are they?

3 Read Matthew 7:13-14.

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In these two verses, Jesus is stating that there are two ways. What are they?

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In these two verses, Jesus is stating that there are two groups. What are they?

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In these two verses, Jesus is stating that there are two destinations. What are they?

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Jesus is not asking people to admire the gate, or ponder and think about the gate. What is He asking people to do?

7 Read Acts 4:12.

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” - Acts 4:12

What does it mean to be “saved”?

We want to hear from you!

We would love to hear your feedback on these lessons and how you use them in your own study or in discipling others. If you have any thoughts, stories, testimonies, comments, or questions we would love to hear them!

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Answer Key

1 Read Matthew 7:13-14.

Is it true that all roads lead to God?

No. Jesus said the true road, the true gate, the true passage way is narrow and must be searched for and sought after to be found. "...narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matthew 7:14b) Have you searched and sought to find the narrow road?

2 Read Matthew 7:13-14.

In these two verses, Jesus is stating that there are two gates. What are they?

The "strait gate" (or narrow gate) and the "wide gate".

3 Read Matthew 7:13-14.

In these two verses, Jesus is stating that there are two ways. What are they?

The "broad way" and the "narrow way". The word "narrow" in this passage means so narrow that you must enter alone. You will not go in groups, you must enter alone, for this is a decision made by only one individual at a time.

4 Read Matthew 7:13-14.

In these two verses, Jesus is stating that there are two groups. What are they?

The "many" and the "few." The word "many" means "a large indefinite number of persons; the masses" while "few" indicates "a very small number."

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destruction and eternal life

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Jesus is not asking people to admire the gate, or ponder and think about the gate. What is He asking people to do?

“¹³Enter ye in at the strait gate.” This is a metaphor that symbolizes Jesus as the only way to God the Father and the forgiveness of your sins. Have you ever considered it seriously?

7 Read Acts 4:12.

What does it mean to be “saved”?

To be “saved” means to make whole, to heal, and rescue from the penalties of divine judgment caused by your sins. Salvation is only found in Jesus.