



Rock Solid

DAILY DEVOTION

Hey, North Ridge Family! Here are this week's Daily Devos. Our hope is that you will process each of these devos according to how you can respond and love on your family and our city.

DAY 1

READ MATTHEW 7:13-14

According to Jesus, there are only two ways to live: one that leads to life and one that leads to destruction. Jesus says, "Enter by the narrow gate!" That gate is salvation through Jesus. In our culture, we are deathly afraid of being labeled "narrow." Being narrow is not often accepted in our society. We often believe that those who are narrow should be shamed and cancelled. Next to being labeled as "narrow" is being labeled "intolerant" and that's even worse!

But Jesus is not afraid to be narrow. He describes his way of life as narrow. He demonstrated a life that looked very narrow. What does it look like to be a follower of Jesus? Narrow! He says the kingdom of God is narrow and he isn't afraid to speak it. Jesus has authority to say this because he knows where the paths lead.

How are you addressing the shaming, cancel culture, and labels of intolerance that Christians are facing in today's culture?

DAY 2

READ JOHN 14:6

But aren't there other paths? Don't all paths lead to the same place? How can you be so exclusive? Don't we all find our way to the same place? The problem is...the gods of other religions are not God. Allah is not God, Hinduism claims to worship up to 330 million gods, Buddhism and atheism have no god, and in new-age religions, you are god. Christians have one God. We are not all on the same journey. We are not on the same mountain. The destination is not the same place.

Christianity's message is the opposite of every other message we see. Christianity leads us to high levels of holiness, purity, and self-denial. Jesus says there are only two paths, but they lead to completely opposite places: one is broad and has no restrictions, no requirements and it leads to destruction. The other is narrow, restrictive, requires us to follow God's way, and leads to life. How can Jesus say this? He knows how the universe works because he created it all. Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth!

How have you experienced the narrow and the broad path?
What alternative paths do you see those around you taking?

DAY 3

READ MATTHEW 7:15-20

This verse warns us to watch out for false teachers. Be careful of the voices that would lead you in a wrong direction. Be alert to those whose ways are subtle—they are clothing themselves as lambs, but they are wolves. Watch out for behavior and teaching that dishonors Christ and destroys people. If the fruit of their instruction is anything other than the narrow way, reject them. Good fruit should be the fruit of the Spirit. What is the root of bad fruit? It looks like saying to yourself, "I want to do something that I know I shouldn't do so I will change the Bible to make a way to do what I want to do."

Who are you listening to? How are they shaping your belief? Are they pulling you off the path?

The principle here is "where you look is where you go." Don't look at it if you don't want to hit it. We want to stay on the narrow path, but we are often attracted to shiny, new things. Where you look is where you'll go!

What false teachings have led you off the narrow path?
What things are you looking at that lead you off the narrow path?

DAY 4

READ MATTHEW 7:21-23

Be careful, you may be walking down the wrong path. A comforting reminder is that Jesus doesn't lose any of his sheep (John 6:39). But Jesus warns us that there are some who will look like they are on the road that leads to life when they are really on the road that leads to destruction. It should be sobering to us because just saying "Lord, Lord" is not enough, being active in ministry is not enough. It is easy to be busy and miss God all together.

There are some reading today who are fooling themselves, who have not entered the narrow gate. That requires us to know we are spiritually broken. It requires that we mourn our sin and submit to Jesus.

Have you recognized that you are spiritually broken, mourned your sin, and submitted to Jesus?
If not spend time praying over this today!

DAY 5

READ MATTHEW 7:24-27

Jesus ends his sermon with a metaphor that can be summed up like this: because there are two paths, because there are false teachers, because some will be false believers, following Jesus is not just about hearing, it is about building your life on what you have heard. It is not just about responding to Jesus once then going on to live like anybody else. You enter the narrow gate, walk the narrow path, build your life on the rock of Jesus. When storms come, you will not fall, you will not be brought down by false prophets, you will not be a false believer. You can build your life on the solid rock of Jesus. Don't anchor your life on anything else. You may be outwardly religious, you may have prayed the sinner's prayer and even been baptized, but you must be tethered to Jesus.

Popular Christianity has made this about a one-time decision for Jesus that says "now you don't have to take Jesus' commands seriously," and "you have your pass into heaven, your sinful life will be tolerated," and these ideas are wrong.

Jesus warned us that millions of people in churches will one day hear Jesus say, "Depart from me; I never knew you." Salvation is accepting that Jesus is what you need and giving him control of your life. If you will accept His invitation to come to Him, to let Him be the King of your heart, you will never hear Him say, "depart," because you will know Him!

How can you build your life on the solid rock of Jesus?
How can you follow the narrow path?