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| **The Narrow Door**  *Promise: we are drawn to the one door by the wideness of God’s mercy* Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg Isaiah 6618-23; Psalm 50:1-15; Hebrews 12:4-29; Luke 13:22-30 (11th Sunday after Pentecost, Pr. 16), 8/24/25  *“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.”* – v. 24  **Lead In –** What enters your mind when you hear the word ‘narrow’? Would you consider it a compliment if someone called you narrow minded? Would you prefer to pass an examination by a slim, or narrow, margin? Or to ace it? With a lot of baggage, would you prefer to squeeze through a narrow entry, or through a wide one? The word truly can carry a negative sense, especially when narrow is used to describe ideas, attitudes, or beliefs. Narrow can be used as a synonym for restricted, outdated, or not being well informed. So, what do you hear, or how do you respond, when Jesus says, “Strive to enter through the narrow door”?   1. **Scripture Points Us to One Way, to One Person**    1. The unabashed claims of God’s Word…    2. Grand scheme: creation, fall, redemption, restoration…    3. From the seed of the woman to dynasty of David… 2. **Doors Are For Shutting Some Things Out**    1. Our homes have doors with locks and bolts…    2. Sin, wickedness, evil, brokenness not allowed forever!    3. In the Kingdom the gates are wide open… 3. **Mere Acquaintanceship Doesn’t Cut It**    1. A deep relationship of trust involving a journey…    2. The journey is not an easy one…    3. Thankfully, there is a wideness in His mercy…   **Final Word –** The question from the crowd that prompted all this from Jesus is interesting. “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” The question implies that Jesus’ teaching was being experienced as demanding, even overwhelming. And Jesus’ response doesn’t do anything to allay this. And yet, unmistakably, Jesus spoke of and exhibited a wide mercy. Indeed, the door is narrow. It is Christ alone. And it is entered one at a time with no extra baggage. His mercy makes it possible to pass through. But remember, the door is Jesus alone. It is that narrow. Remember also, doors are opened, and they are shut. And you never know when the Master will shut the door. Enter while you can, and don’t be left outside weeping.  **Jn 14:6** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”  **Ac 4:12** And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.  **Jn 10:9** “I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved.”  **Ge 3:15** “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”  **Ge 12:3c** In [Abraham and his descendants] all the families of the earth shall be blessed.  **Lk 1:68-69** Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David. (cf. 2Sa 7:11-16) | **Luke 13:22-30 ESV**  *The Narrow Door*  22[Jesus] went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. 23And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, 24“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ 26Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ 27But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ 28In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. 29And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. 30And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”  **Jn 5:39** You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.  **Re 20:14-15** Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.  **Re 21:22-27** And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.  **Jn 17:3** And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.  **Jn 1:12** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.  **Relationship** established by Christ in Baptism is not merely a one-time event but an ongoing journey of faith, marked by repentance, belief, and a growing understanding of God's will.  **Mt 7:13-14** “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”  **He 12:1** let us run with endurance the race that is set before us  **He 12:7** It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? |

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