

# “Few There Be”

*“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”*

(Matthew 7:14)

## Seven Important Questions To Consider When Studying The Scriptures

1. Who is talking?
2. Who is he talking to?
3. When did this take place?
4. Where did it take place?
5. Why did it take place?
6. **What lesson is here for me?**
7. **What am I going to do about it?**

### Who Is Talking?

It is very obvious the One doing the talking here is Christ. Matthew 5:1,2 says, *“And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, **his disciples** came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and **taught them...**”*

### Who Is Christ Talking To?

The word “*And*” is a connecting word that ties this chapter to the previous chapter where we are read *“...there followed him great multitudes of people.”* (Ch.4:25) Matthew 5:1 tells us Christ left the multitudes to spend some time alone with His *“...disciples.”* **It is very important to understand that Christ is only talking to “...his disciples.”**

### When And Where Did This Take Place?

The sermon on the mount began in Matthew 5:1 on *“...a mountain,”* and ended at Matthew 8:1 where we read, *“When he was come down from the mountain...”*



### When Did This Discussion Take Place?

It took place at the beginning of a three year training program concerning the high cost of discipleship. **Everything Christ said from Matthew 5:1 to Matthew 8:1 was said to His disciples and only to His disciples.** We read that Jesus, *“...opened his mouth, and **taught them...**”* Christ was obviously speaking only to Christians. Consider the following statements.

### Obviously Speaking Only To Christians Christ said...

- **Ch. 5:16** - *“Ye are the salt of the earth.”*
- **Ch. 5:14** - *“Ye are the light of the world.”*
- **Ch.5:16** - *“...your Father which is in heaven.”*
- **Ch. 5:45** - *“...your Father which is in heaven.”*
- **Ch. 5:48** - *“...your Father which is in heaven.”*
- **Ch. 6:1** - *“...your Father which is in heaven.”*
- **Ch.6:8** - *“...your Father which is in heaven.”*
- **Ch.6:15** - *“...your Father which is in heaven.”*
- **Ch. 7:11** - *“...your Father which is in heaven.”*

When talking to His disciples, Christ used the personal pronoun *“...ye,” “...your,” “...thou,”* and *“...you”* over 130 times in His Message.

### Still Speaking To Christians...

Christ said, *“Enter ye (Christians) in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, (translated “waste” twice.) and many there be which go in*

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

## Nothing To Do With Getting Saved!

Why is it that this verse is taken out of context and applied to the unsaved getting saved? The main reason is, preachers are too lazy to study the Bible. It is much easier to spend ten minutes reading a commentary about a verse than it is to spend ten hours studying the Word of God. Second Timothy 2:15 commands us to, "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*"

### "Leadeth Unto Life"

It is obvious that Christ was not talking about eternal life. He was talking to people whose "*Father*" was "*...in Heaven.*" They already had eternal life. He was talking about the Christian's "*...life in Christ Jesus*" (Romans 8:2) He was talking about Christians walking "*...in newness of life.*" (Romans 6:4)

The Bible says to the Christian, "*...to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*" (Romans 8:6) Few Christians there be that experience "*...the peace of God, which passeth all understanding...*" (Philippians 4:7)

## Christ Offers No Cheap Discipleship

His disciples were heading into some very hostile situations. They would suffer the abuse of man if they were going to follow Him during His time on this earth. In this same message Christ told them, "*...men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*"

When Christ returned to Heaven they would suffer an even stronger persecution. In Acts 9:1 we find "**Saul... breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord.**" Following the resurrection they were beaten, they were jailed and they were stoned. Hebrews chapter eleven tells us His followers, "*...had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented... they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.*" Paul said, "*Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*" (Second Timothy 3:12)

### Christian - "Count The Cost" Jesus said...

*"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?"* (Luke 14:26-28)

Does a soldier going to war still love father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters? Of course he does; however, an urgent need has arisen. That is why Jesus continued in this chapter talking about counting the cost when defending against an enemy. We would also do well to count the cost also if we do not stand against the enemy.

Preachers have offered a no cost, discipleship and as a result we are plagued with Christians that are "**...good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.**" (Matthew 5:13)

Most Christians refuse “...*the narrow way*” because they want to carry all their baggage that is bulging with their *self-needs*, their *self-esteem* and *self-satisfaction*. Christ made it plain. Three times He very plainly said those kind of professed Christians, “...*cannot be my disciple.*” (Luke 14:26,27,33)

## "Can two walk together except they be agreed?"

(Amos 3:3)

If we are going to walk together with Christ it will have to be on His terms. We can be assured that Christ is not going to change to accommodate man's self-centered “...*me first*” attitude.

## Christ Has No “Me First” Disciples

In Luke chapter nine three men offered to follow Christ. One of them was concerned about his personal *comfort*, the second was disqualified because of his “...*me first*” attitude and the third was concerned about his family more than the cause of Christ. One man said “*I will follow thee but...*” Another said “...*suffer me first...*” (Luke 9:59) ” Another said “...*let me first...*” (Luke 9:61) Christ said, “...*ye cannot be my disciples.*”

**Christ said,-** “*If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*” (Luke 9:23)

### Conclusions

We began this article suggesting seven questions to ask when studying the Scriptures. Two very important questions are, *what lesson is here for me?*, and *what am I going to do about it?*

## “Few Christians Find It” Because Few Christians Are Looking For It

### Costly Discipleship



A.W. Tozer

In our eagerness to make converts I am afraid we have lately been guilty of using the technique of modern salesmanship, which is of course to present only the desirable qualities in a product and ignore the rest. We go to men and offer them a cozy home on the sunny side of the brae.

If they will but accept Christ He will give them peace of mind, solve their problems, prosper their business, protect their families and keep them happy all day long. They believe us and come, and the first cold wind sends them shivering to some counselor to find out what has gone wrong; and that is the last we hear of many of them.

The teachings of Christ reveal Him to be a realist in the finest meaning of that word. Nowhere in the Gospels do we find anything visionary or overoptimistic. He told His hearers the whole truth and let them make up their minds. He might grieve over the retreating form of an inquirer who could not face up to the truth, but He never ran after him to try to win him with rosy promises. He would have men follow Him, knowing the cost, or He would let them go their ways.

All this is but to say that Christ is honest. We can trust Him. He knows that He will never be popular among the sons of Adam and He knows that His followers need not expect to be. The wind that blows in His face will be felt by all who travel with Him, and we are not intellectually honest when we try to hide that fact from them.