



THE NARROW GATE (part 2)

Last week I was teaching on [Esther Chapter 4](#) that concludes with Esther's famous words: *"If I perish, I perish"*. Esther the queen was living in the royal palace and had no idea of the impending doom upon GOD's people. She was busy with her beauty treatments and her maids. Then, one day she receives word from her cousin Mordecai that there has been a decree from the king calling for the total destruction of the Jews. Mordecai then ordered her to go in to the king to plead for her people. Esther struggled with Mordecai's order knowing that going to the king without being summoned could mean certain death. However, she came to the point where she was willing to lay down her life to intercede for God's people. She had no promises, no miraculous sign, no guarantee that all would go well. In fact, she might very well be going to her death if the king does not accept her. So, will she choose the way of worldly comfort? Or will she choose to live for GOD and HIS people and perish to the world? Esther chose well.

As Christians, we have to make this same decision every day.
Will we choose the Way of the World? Or, will we choose the Way of the Cross?



You say -- "Everyday! Tressa you're crazy! We only have to go through the Narrow Gate Cross of Jesus Christ in order to get saved! We don't have to do that everyday!" BUT, that kind of thinking doesn't line up with Scripture! By GOD's grace through faith, the true born-from-above believer has entered through the Narrow Gate Cross of Jesus Christ and has received GOD's wonderful promises of justification, redemption, reconciliation and regeneration. However, we are typically not so willing to enter each day through the Narrow Gate Cross for our progressive sanctification. In [Luke 9:23](#), Jesus Himself told His true followers [anyone who truly wished to come after Him] that they MUST deny themselves, *take up their cross DAILY*, and follow Christ. By faith, the true follower of Jesus Christ must make the choice to go through the Narrow Gate Cross DAILY and to follow Christ's Narrow Road of true, abundant life.

In the Words of the Apostle Paul: "For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be made powerless so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin." [Romans 6:5-7] "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." [Galatians 2:20] "Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." [Galatians 5:24] "But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." [Galatians 6:14]

The true born-from-above believer *has already been* crucified with Christ and GOD has raised us to walk in newness of life -- Christ IN me the hope of glory! [Colossians 1:17] BUT, the Way of the World is still very appealing to our natural "self". Our fallen nature loves to believe and follow what is pleasing to our own thoughts and senses. Even though our flesh has been crucified with Christ, it still desires to be in control -- though, for the Christian it does not have to be.

You may remember that [Matthew 7:14](#) told us that the Narrow Gate is difficult to find! It is veiled by the cloak of religion and of our own human reasoning! We like to think that GOD is like us -- when Scripture is very clear that HE is nothing like us [Psalm 50:21; Isaiah 55:8]. But, I also believe the Narrow Cross Gate is difficult to go through! Crucifixion is brutal to the flesh; and there is nothing nice or easy about it! Nevertheless, by GOD's grace, the true believer has found the gate and has entered through it for initial salvation. AND GOD commands HIS true followers to live each day with the same attitude as Christ and be obedient unto death (daily) -- even death on a cross. [Philippians 2:5-8 -- "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."]

GOD our Father calls us to the same commitment as Christ -- that each day we set our face like flint toward the Cross -- knowing that by doing so we will never be ashamed when we stand before Holy God [Isaiah 50:6-7]. Our Father knows how weak we are! HE has given us EVERYTHING we need to follow HIS Narrow Road. If we would just trust GOD with each and every day and by faith follow Christ through the Narrow Gate Cross and walk with Him on His narrow road, we would be a very blessed and happy people! We would be good and faithful servants of Christ living the Overcoming Resurrection Life to the glory of GOD and the building of His kingdom!

Oh Lord, more than anything -- not my will but yours be done...and *if I perish, I perish...*

