



August 31, 2025

Kevin Sneed

Matthew 7:12-14

## Introduction

This week's message explores what it means to walk on "the Way" as followers of Jesus, examining the Golden Rule as the summary of all Scripture and Jesus' call to enter through the narrow gate. Kevin Sneed challenges us to understand that the narrow path isn't about doctrinal correctness but about obedience and love in action. He emphasizes that Jesus' invitation is to a narrow way that leads to a spacious life.

**Key Texts:** Matthew 7:12-14; Matthew 5:17; Matthew 22:36-40; John 14:6; John 10:10-11

## Icebreaker

What's one area of your life where following stricter guidelines or "narrower boundaries" has actually led to more freedom or better results? (Examples: budgeting, training for a sport, learning a skill, etc.)

## Discussion Questions

1. Kevin asked: "How do you measure your own spiritual vitality/maturity?" What metrics or indicators do you tend to use? How might these differ from God's measures?
2. **Read Matthew 7:12 and Matthew 22:36-40 together as a group.** Jesus summarizes all of Scripture with love—love for God and love for others. Kevin said love is "willing the good of another." How does this definition challenge your understanding of love? Where do you find this most difficult to practice?

3. **Read Matthew 7:13-14 together as a group.** The Greek word for "narrow" also means "to experience trouble." Why do you think following Jesus involves this kind of constriction? What are some ways you've experienced this in your discipleship?
4. Kevin said the narrow gate is not doctrinal correctness but obedience in love. How does this distinction between right beliefs and loving obedience challenge you? Can you think of times when you've emphasized one over the other?
5. The three obstacles Kevin mentioned were moralism, success-ism, and individualism. Which do you most struggle with, and how does it keep you from the "narrow way"?
6. Kevin said, "Jesus' invitation is to a narrow way and a spacious life." What does "spacious life" mean to you? How have you experienced this kind of freedom from following Jesus' narrow path?
7. **Read John 10:10-11 together as a group.** Jesus promises "life to the full." How does this connect to the narrow path leading to abundant life? What might be hindering the abundant life Jesus offers in your current season?

## Key Takeaways

- The Golden Rule summarizes all of Scripture—love is the measure of spiritual maturity
- The narrow gate is about loving obedience, not just doctrinal correctness
- The narrow path leads to constriction but results in a spacious, abundant life
- Three obstacles to avoid: moralism, success-ism, and individualism

## Notes