

Week beginning: 12th August 2007

Theme: ‘The Narrow Way’
(or ‘Claustrophobic Christians!’)

Welcome: Have you ever been in a really tight spot – physically or figuratively! How did you feel? Why do you think that humans don’t like to feel ‘restricted’?

Worship: Don’t forget to worship in your cell meeting. It is through worship that we draw near to God. Has someone in the cell got a favourite song of praise on their heart this week? – Sing it! *Also – read together # 261 in Songs of Fellowship, taking it in turns to read a verse. (Annex A)*

Discuss – Having read the song ‘I want to walk with Jesus Christ’

1. Is the songwriter sad about ‘yielding his life’ to the Lord? What kind of language leads you to your conclusion?
2. What kind of things does God ask us to give up when we turn control of our lives over to Him – and walk the Narrow Way?
3. And what kind of things does He ask us to *start doing*?

Word: Read Proverbs 14 v 12

‘What you think is the ‘right road’ may lead to death.(GNB)

Teaching Slot:

A rich young man came to Jesus and asked ‘Lord, what must I do to inherit eternal life? Jesus advised him to keep the commandments and the delighted young man (with one eye on heaven) responded – I do! But then Jesus asked him to ***give up the things that seem important in this world*** – and the young man just couldn’t do it, it was too hard. The young man had addressed Jesus as ‘Lord’ and yet he had been unwilling to follow his Lord’s instructions! He was happy to ‘talk the talk’ but recoiled from ‘walking the walk’. Jesus said ‘not all those who call me Lord will enter the Kingdom of Heaven’.

True evidence of faith in Christ ... is a reformed life.

Witness:

Come on, how different are you from the ‘unsaved’ people all around you? Instead of suggesting good witness this week let’s focus on avoiding bad witness. Do you laugh at dirty jokes? Then expect your non-Christian friends to rejoice that you are just like them – no worse, but certainly no better. Do you join in with the office gossip? Then don’t expect your friends to accept your invitation to church – it hasn’t changed you. If you show up with a hangover they will say that Christians have no self control. If you chain smoke they will say that God does not seem to offer much peace. What about your language – the result of justice and grace ... or just a plain disgrace?

A wise man once said –

Did your profession of faith in Christ cost you anything?

If not, then it was not a true profession.

The Narrow Way is tough ... but thank God that you will probably never be asked to sacrifice as much as Peter, Stephen, Paul or a *few* others who today share eternal life with the Saviour.

Annex A

‘I want to walk with Jesus Christ’

I want to walk with Jesus Christ, all the days I live on earth;
To give to Him complete control of body and of soul.

*Follow Him, follow Him, yield your life to Him,
He has conquered death, He is King of kings.
Accept the joy which He gives to those who yield their lives to Him.*

I want to learn to speak to Him, to pray to Him, confess my sin;
To open my life and let Him in - for joy will then be mine.

I want to learn to speak of Him, my life must show that He lives in me;
My deeds, my thoughts, my words must speak - all of His love for me.

I want to learn to read His Word for this is how I know the Way
to live my life as pleases Him - in holiness and joy.

O Holy Spirit of the Lord, enter now into this heart of mine;
take full control of my selfish will - and make me wholly Thine.