



# SPORTS IN FOCUS

THE MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM  
Matthew 7:13-14 • Lesson Three

# ZOOM!

## READY

- Much of Jesus' ministry was preaching and teaching. What is one of the best sermons or messages you've ever heard? Why does it stick out in your mind? What made it so powerful and memorable?

## SET

### Context of Matthew 5-7

Until this point in Matthew, Jesus' words have been limited to His teachings in general. Now in one powerful and comprehensive yet compact message, the Lord sets forth the foundational truths of the gospel of the kingdom He came to proclaim. This one continuous message of the Lord found in Matthew 5-7 has traditionally been called the Sermon on the Mount.

### Keys to Text

*Messiah and King:* Most Jews of Jesus' day expected the Messiah, the "Anointed One," to be, first of all, a military and political leader who would deliver them from the yoke of Rome and establish a prosperous Jewish kingdom that would lead the world. He would be greater than any king, leader, or prophet in their history. They saw Jesus as the anticipated leader of a great welfare state in which even their routine physical needs would be provided. But Jesus would not allow Himself to be mistaken for that type of king.

## GO

### Read Matthew 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.

1. What is the central message of these two verses?
2. What is the narrow gate? Why is it the hard way?
3. How does being saved by grace alone relate to these verses?
4. What is the wide gate? Why do so many enter this gate?
5. What are the consequences for entering the wide gate?
6. How should understanding these verses motivate you to share the gospel?

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Former Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush returned his award following the penalties incurred by USC because he violated NCAA rules several years ago. However, he didn't apologize for his bad behavior which led to a former assistant coach Steve Sarkisian to say, "He had a chance to apologize and look like a good guy," the Washington head coach told ESPN's Shelley Smith. "But in giving it back and not apologizing, he just looks like an idiot again." Doing the right thing by both apologizing and returning the trophy is no doubt the proper course of action. However, the Sermon on the Mount sets standards that go beyond demanding right behavior. It also demands right attitudes as well — not just that men do right but that they be right. No part of Scripture more clearly shows man's desperate situation without God than the Sermon on the Mount. The sermon intends to drive the listener to Jesus Christ as man's only hope of meeting God's standards. Man can't live up to the divine standard, he needs a supernatural power to enable him. The proper response to the sermon leads to Christ. [www.nebraskafca.org](http://www.nebraskafca.org)