

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Bigger does not always mean better. Just because a church is big and has a lot of people, does not mean it's a good church.

- ☹ Look at how many people flock to Las Vegas, and even call it by its other name "Sin City" yet even though it's packed with people, which does not make it a good place to go to?
- ☹ Or how many will go to a concert in a huge venue seating thousands of people, with the lead singer scarcely dressed leaving nothing to the imagination. Or to listen to a band full of cursing and songs that glorify sin?
- ☹ How many will miss going to church for several Sundays, yet would not miss going to a stadium packed with thousands of people to watch a football game and even getting there early?
- ☹ How many will go to concerts or a football game or any sports event and jump and shout for their team, yet fall asleep at church?

All these places and even more are packed with people, but that does not make them good. But also based upon my opening statement, *"Just because a church is big and has a lot of people, does not mean it's a good church."* Yet how many go there, even though it is a good church, but they go there to hide or not have to interact with people, at least not with the same people each week.

- ☹ They are the ones who go and sneak out, try not to speak to anyone.
- ☹ Some go because they like the music with all the instruments and singers and it makes them feel good.
- ☹ Or how many go there, because the messages are all about "me" and what "I" can get out of this Christianity thing, instead of being taught and equipped to help others, and it's about themselves and what they can get out of it.

If you look at Jesus' ministry, He made it all about others and not Himself. If Jesus had made it about Himself, no one would have followed Him except the religious leaders, who made it all about keeping rules and regulation and about themselves, and taught others to be just like them.

† **Matthew 23:15 (NLT2)** *What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you cross land and sea to make one convert, and then you turn that person into twice the child of hell you yourselves are!*

But that is what people are flocking to, making it all about me, me, me, and if you think about it, some of these churches are so large because everyone stays there and no one ever goes out to start more churches, once again, because it's all about me, me, me, because that's all they are taught.

In today's verse, that's one thing Jesus is teaching us when He says: ***“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”***

I have been to both large mega churches that seat 5,000 people, and small churches of about 20-30 people meeting in a school auditorium. But the reason I go to each church, is not because it's large or small, but because of the word of God being taught in Spirit and in Truth, and to be equipped to help/minister to others.

† ***John 4:23-24 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.***

So don't judge a church based upon its size and think it's a great church because it's large. But rather find a church that is great (even if it's small) because it teaches the greatness of God's word, and they don't make it all about you, you, you!

† ***1 Kings 19:11-12 Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.***