



Soldiers For Christ Global Community Church

“Task Force S4C” Is A Temporary Military Unit Formed By Christ To Undertake Specific Spiritual Warfare Missions

Website s4ctroops.com 877.426.9778 Email: Ben.Davis@S4Ctroops.com

Sunday Morning Prayer & Study

You Can Email Pastor Ben Directly Ben.Davis@S4Ctroops.com

Today's Date 10/25/2026

“Waiting Has A Purpose”

(God Is Thinning The Herd? Will You Be Part Of The Thinning?)

Matthew 7:13-14

The Only Way In Is To, Enter Through The Narrow Gate

Amplified Bible

(13) “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad and easy to travel is the path that leads the way to destruction and eternal loss, and there are many who enter through it.

Enter through the narrow gate: Jesus calls for a decisive response to God’s kingdom. The narrow gate is entered through repentance and faith in Christ, not through religious appearance, personal merit, or conformity to the crowd. Discipleship requires obedience and a willingness to deny self, as Jesus taught in **Luke 14:25–33**. Christ alone is the door of salvation (**John 10:9**), and all who come to the Father must come through Him. **Luke 13:24**

For wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction: **The broad way accommodates sin, self-rule, and false religion without demanding repentance.** It is attractive because **it permits people to follow their natural desires and the values of the world.** Yet **its end is destruction: final judgment and separation from God.** Scripture repeatedly sets before humanity the choice between life and death and warns against joining the multitude in evil (**Deuteronomy 30:19; Exodus 23:2**). People don't seem to understand what it means to be separated from the **Most High God**. **From a human and earthly prospective,** If the sun moves significantly away from Earth or leaves the solar system entirely, the planet will face immediate darkness, severe temperature drops, and the collapse of life-sustaining conditions. Rapid Freezing, frozen Oceans. Photosynthesis would stop immediately as plants would die off collapsing the entire food chain. Earth cannot survive on its surface (**where we currently live**) without the sun, as the planet would quickly freeze, lose its atmosphere, and drift into deep space. **Philippians 3:19**

and many enter through it: The number of those on the broad way does not make it right. Many reject sound doctrine and prefer teaching that confirms their desires (**2 Timothy 4:3–4**). Jesus warns His followers to **measure every path by God’s truth rather than popularity,** and to persevere in the **costly but life-giving** way of faithfulness to Him. **2nd Peter 2:2, Exodus 23:2, 2nd Timothy 4:3-4**



Soldiers For Christ Global Community Church

"Task Force S4C" Is A Temporary Military Unit Formed By Christ To Undertake Specific Spiritual Warfare Missions
Website s4ctroops.com 877.426.9778 Email: Ben.Davis@S4Ctroops.com

Amplified Bible

(14) But small is the gate and narrow and difficult to travel is the path that leads the way to [everlasting] life, and there are few who find it.

But small is the gate: Jesus portrays entrance into God's kingdom as requiring a deliberate response to Him. The gate stands in sharp contrast to the broad entrance of self-rule, sin, and spiritual indifference. Repentance and faith mark those who enter, as Jesus proclaimed from the beginning of His ministry (**Matthew 4:17**). **Hebrews 10:20**

and narrow the way: **Following Christ requires submission to His authority** rather than accommodation to the world's values. Disciples are called to deny themselves, take up the cross, and obey **Him** (**Matthew 16:24**). The way is narrow because **Jesus alone is the way to the Father** (**John 14:6**), and **His** commands shape the life of everyone who belongs to Him. **Proverbs 4:18, Psalm 119:32, Acts 14:22**

and only a few find it: Many hear Christ's words without receiving them, choosing the easier course of sin and unbelief. Yet God preserves a faithful people who trust Him, as seen in the remnant throughout Israel's history and in the church (**Romans 11:5**). Jesus' warning calls every hearer to seek the kingdom earnestly and calls His disciples to make known the way of life. **Luke 13:23,**

The term "disciple" (*mathetes* in Greek) simply means a learner or follower. While the original **Twelve Disciples** (and later the Apostles) walked physically with Jesus during **His** earthly ministry, the Bible calls all Christians today to live as His disciples by spreading His teachings and loving others (**Matthew 28:19-20**).

Luke 13:24-27

(Jesus portrays the end of the present opportunity)

International Standard Version

(24) "Keep on struggling to enter through the narrow door, because I tell you that many people will try to enter, but won't be able to do so.

"Make every effort to enter through the narrow door: Jesus answers the question of whether few will be saved by directing each hearer to personal repentance and faith. **The narrow door is the way of entrance into God's kingdom**, open through **Christ Jesus alone** yet rejected by many because it requires surrender to God rather than reliance on ancestry, religious privilege, or outward association with Jesus. The call carries urgency, for Jesus was traveling toward Jerusalem, where He would accomplish redemption through His death and resurrection. Salvation is God's gift, but those who receive it must turn from sin, trust Christ, and persevere in obedient faith. The narrow door stands in contrast to the broad way leading to destruction described in **Matthew 7:13-14**.

For many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able: Many will desire the blessings of God's kingdom without submitting to the King while the opportunity remains. The following warning of the shut door shows that the failure is not due to any unwillingness in God to save repentant sinners, but to delayed and empty profession. Some knew Jesus' teaching and shared meals in His presence,



Soldiers For Christ Global Community Church

"Task Force S4C" Is A Temporary Military Unit Formed By Christ To Undertake Specific Spiritual Warfare Missions
Website s4ctroops.com 877.426.9778 Email: Ben.Davis@S4Ctroops.com

yet did not truly belong to Him. Like those warned in **Matthew 7:21–23**, they may claim familiarity with the Lord while their lives deny His authority. The warning calls for genuine faith now, before the day comes when judgment is fixed and entrance is no longer possible.

New Living Translation

(25) When the master of the house has locked the door, it will be too late. You will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Lord, open the door for us!' But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'

After the master of the house gets up and shuts the door: Jesus portrays the end of the present opportunity to enter God's kingdom. **The master of the house is Christ**, who alone has authority to admit people into **His kingdom**. The shut door marks the finality of judgment, as in the days of Noah when the Lord shut Noah and his family safely within the ark before judgment fell (**Genesis 7:16**). The image also recalls the bridegroom who shut the door against the unprepared virgins (**Matthew 25:10–12**). God's invitation is gracious, but it must not be presumed upon or delayed.

you will stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door for us: Those outside recognize Christ's authority and desire entrance only after the door has been closed. Their pleading reveals regret, but regret after judgment cannot replace repentance and faith during the time God has given. Some had heard Jesus teach, witnessed His works, and associated themselves with the people of God, yet they had not entered through the narrow door of genuine faith and obedience (**Luke 13:24**). Calling Him **"Lord"** without doing the Father's will does not establish fellowship with **Him**.

But he will reply, 'I do not know where you are from: Christ's answer exposes the absence of a true covenant relationship with those who **sought entry too late**. Their outward familiarity with religious life could not substitute for being known by the Lord. Jesus gives the same warning to those who profess His name while continuing in lawlessness: **"I never knew you; depart from Me"** (**Matthew 7:23**). Entrance into the kingdom belongs to those who receive Christ in sincere faith and follow Him before the day of judgment arrives.

Good News Translation

(26) Then you will answer, 'We ate and drank with you; you taught in our town!'

Good News Translation

(27) But he will say again, 'I don't know where you come from. Get away from me, all you wicked people!'

'I tell you, I do not know where you are from: Jesus does not deny knowledge of their identity but rejects their claim to belong to Him. They had heard Him teach and had witnessed His works, yet they had not entered through repentance and faith. **His** words echo **Matthew 7:23**, where He denies those who claimed His name while refusing His will. Separation from Christ is the fearful outcome of unbelief and unrepented sin. Their lives exposed the reality of their hearts.



Soldiers For Christ Global Community Church

“Task Force S4C” Is A Temporary Military Unit Formed By Christ To Undertake Specific Spiritual Warfare Missions
Website s4ctroops.com 877.426.9778 Email: Ben.Davis@S4Ctroops.com

John 10:9-10

(Jesus alone provides access to God, spiritual safety, and eternal life)

Amplified Bible

(9) I am the Door; anyone who enters through Me will be saved [and will live forever], and will go in and out [freely], and find pasture (spiritual security).

I am the gate: Jesus alone provides access to God, spiritual safety, and eternal life. In a sheepfold, the entrance was the **single point of access**, guarded by the shepherd against thieves and predators. Jesus stands as the protector of His flock and the mediator through whom sinners come to the Father. His claim accords with His declaration that He is “**the way, the truth, and the life**” and that **no one comes to the Father except through Him**.

If anyone enters through Me: The invitation extends to anyone **without distinction of nation, background, or social standing**. **Entrance requires faith in Jesus Christ**, trusting His person and His saving work rather than relying on human merit, religious heritage, or moral effort. He calls the weary and burdened to come to Him for rest.

he will be saved: Salvation includes **forgiveness of sin, deliverance from God's judgment, reconciliation with God, and the gift of eternal life**. Jesus gives this assurance to all who truly come through Him. The security of His sheep rests upon His authority and faithfulness, not upon their ability to guard themselves. *Romans 10:9-13*

Amplified Bible

(10) The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].

Matthew 25:1-13

*(Bridesmaids who **profess** to be followers of Jesus Christ and are waiting for His return.)*

5 were prepared and willing to wait, 5 were willing to wait but not prepared, they didn't count up the cost.

New American Standard Bible

(1) “Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom.

Amplified Bible

(2) Five of them were foolish [thoughtless, silly, and careless], and five were wise [far-sighted, practical, and sensible].

Amplified Bible

(3) For when the foolish took their lamps, they did not take any [extra] oil with them,



Soldiers For Christ Global Community Church

"Task Force S4C" Is A Temporary Military Unit Formed By Christ To Undertake Specific Spiritual Warfare Missions
Website s4ctroops.com 877.426.9778 Email: Ben.Davis@S4Ctroops.com

The foolish ones: Five of the virgins lacked the wisdom that fears God and lives in readiness for the Bridegroom. Though included among the wedding party, **they failed to prepare for the delayed arrival that Jesus foretold.** They weren't prepared for the long hall; they had no thought of staying any longer than they originally planned.

took their lamps: Each virgin carried a lamp, showing an outward expectation of the bridegroom's coming. The lamps provided light for joining the nighttime procession into the wedding feast, portraying a professed readiness to receive Christ when He returns.

but did not take along any extra oil: Their failure was not a lack of initial participation but a lack of enduring preparation. Oil sustained the lamp through the night; without a reserve, their lamps could not remain useful when the bridegroom arrived. The parable warns that **outward profession cannot replace persevering faith and watchful obedience.**

When the Bible speaks of oil in lamps: most famously in the Parable of the Ten Virgins in **Matthew 25:1–13** and the instructions for the Tabernacle menorah in **Exodus 27:20** and **Leviticus 24:2**, it symbolizes **The Holy Spirit** and the sustaining spiritual life, grace, and readiness required to walk with God. **Leviticus 24:2**,

GOD'S WORD® Translation

(4) The wise bridesmaids, however, took along extra oil for their lamps.

took oil in flasks: **They anticipated delay and made provision beyond immediate need.** Oil enabled their lamps to continue burning through the night, illustrating the enduring readiness required of those who await Christ. Oil here is associated in Scripture with anointing and the work of **The Holy Spirit**. **Personal preparedness in Christ cannot be borrowed from others at the last moment.** the bridegroom's arrival could come at an unexpected hour. The wise virgins possessed both the visible lamps and the needed supply of oil, portraying a faith that is not merely outward but sustained and ready for the Lord's return. **Luke 12:35**,

New International Version

(5) The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

they all became drowsy: Both the wise and foolish virgins experienced the weariness of prolonged waiting. Ordinary human weakness is not the central issue; the distinction lies in whether they possessed the oil needed when the cry announced the bridegroom's approach. **Long expectation can expose complacency, making continual faith, obedience, and dependence upon God essential**_(Romans 13:11).

Holman Christian Standard Bible

(6) "In the middle of the night there was a shout: Here's the groom! Come out to meet him."



Soldiers For Christ Global Community Church

“Task Force S4C” Is A Temporary Military Unit Formed By Christ To Undertake Specific Spiritual Warfare Missions
Website s4ctroops.com 877.426.9778 Email: Ben.Davis@S4Ctroops.com

Amplified Bible

- (7) Then all those virgins got up and put their own lamps in order [trimmed the wicks and added oil and lit them].

Those with an active, intimate relationship with Christ. Fighting to stay in The Race, keeping their Love for Christ burning (oil in their lamps) they were taken and those who did not were left behind.

Holman Christian Standard Bible

- (8) But the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, ‘Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.’

Berean Standard Bible

- (9) ‘No,’ said the wise ones, ‘or there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

and buy some for yourselves: The instruction emphasizes personal responsibility, not the purchase of salvation, which is God’s gift of grace. Following Christ nevertheless requires a real and costly commitment of the whole person, including self-denial and perseverance (Luke 9:23). **When the bridegroom comes, every person will stand before Him on the basis of his or her own relationship to Him.** Isaiah 55:1, Revelation 3:18, Proverbs 23:23

New Living Translation

- (10) “But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked.

New Living Translation

- (11) Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’

Amplified Bible

- (12) But He replied, ‘I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, I do not know you [we have no relationship].’

I do not know you: The closed door reflects not merely a missed opportunity but the **absence of a recognized relationship with the bridegroom (Christ)**. The foolish virgins expected admission because they had waited near the wedding party, yet they lacked the oil needed for the bridegroom’s delay. Their exclusion warns that outward association with God’s people cannot replace genuine faith, spiritual readiness, and perseverance. **Christ knows His own**, and His return will reveal those who have truly belonged to Him.

Amplified Bible

- (13) Therefore, be on the alert [be prepared and ready], for you do not know the day nor the hour [when the Son of Man will come].

Mark 13:32, 1st Thessalonians 5:2, 2nd Peter 3:10



Soldiers For Christ Global Community Church

“Task Force S4C” Is A Temporary Military Unit Formed By Christ To Undertake Specific Spiritual Warfare Missions

Website s4ctroops.com 877.426.9778 Email: Ben.Davis@S4CTroops.com



Photo by S4C's Own Thomas Copeland, A Soldier For Christ

For Your NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.