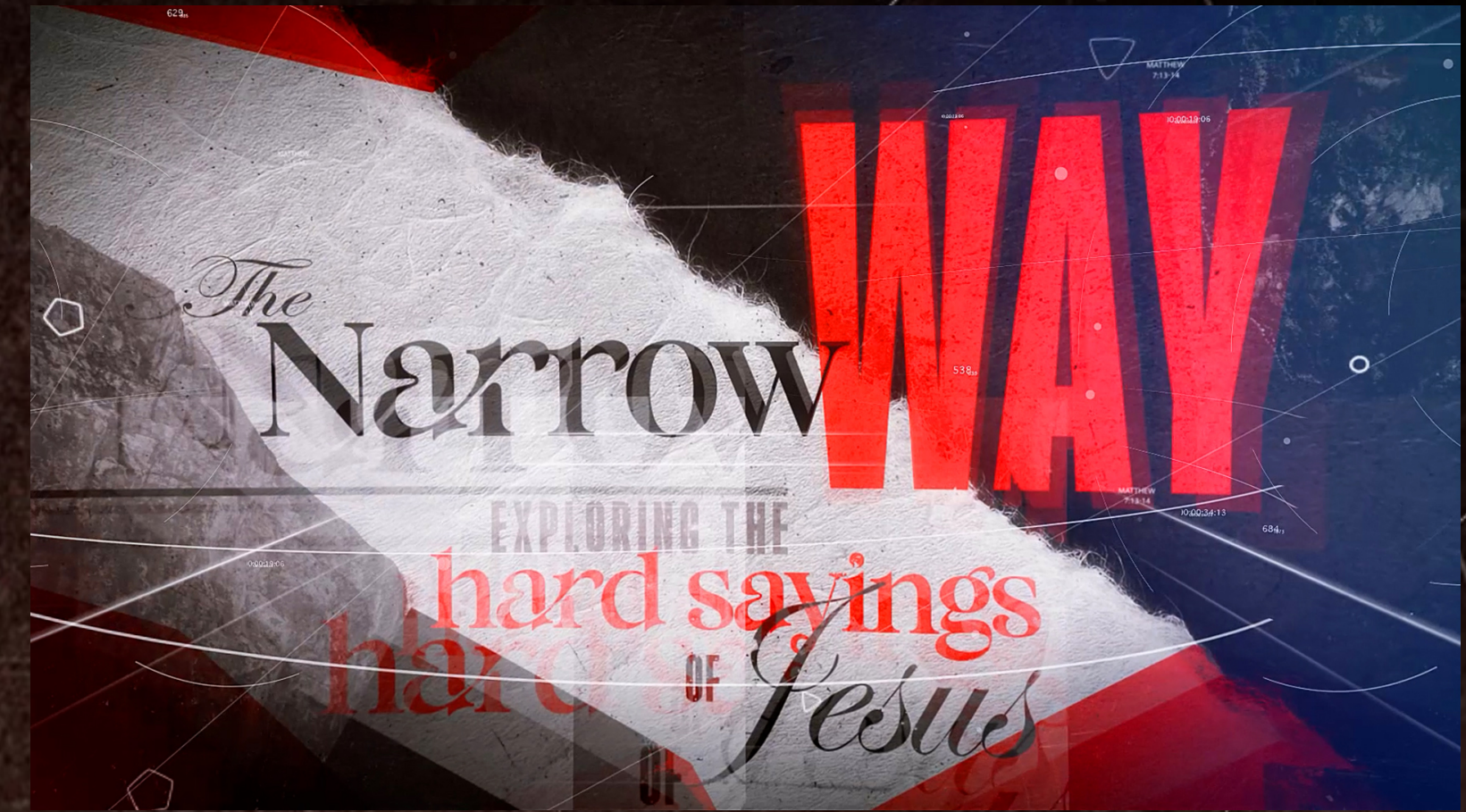


The Narrow Way

Week 1

The Call To Die



Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp - Reston Bible Church - Sunday, November 16, 2025

**When Jesus said something outrageous,
He typically used physical metaphors to
address spiritual realities.**

Theme Verse for the Series

“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.”

Matthew 7:13-14 ESV

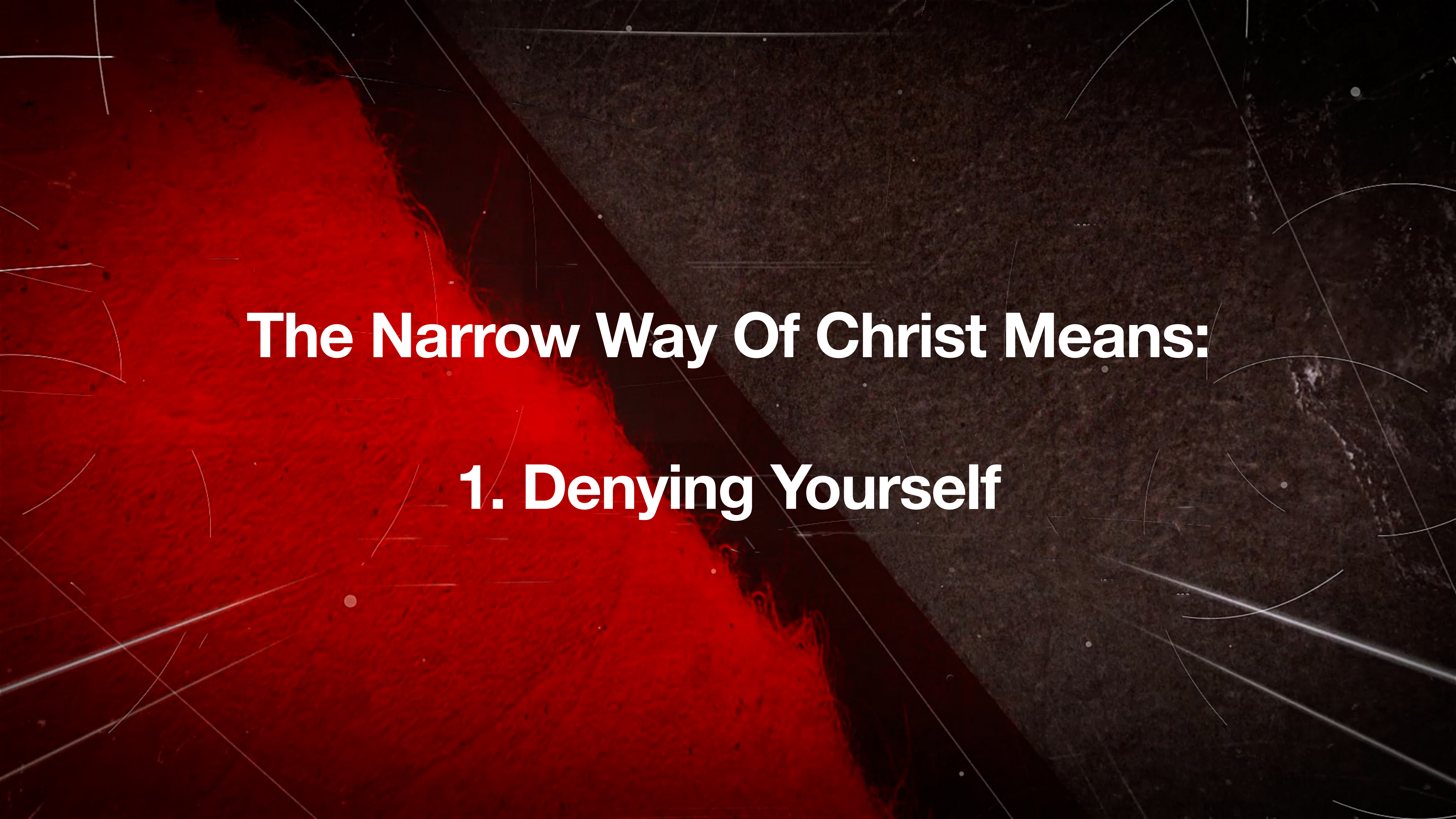
Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

1 John 3:4-6 ESV

Week 1 - A Call To Die

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?”

Matthew 16:24-26 ESV



The Narrow Way Of Christ Means:

1. Denying Yourself

Deny = Refuse to Recognize or Acknowledge

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20 ESV

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:5-7 ESV



Emptied – divest oneself of position

Servant – slave

The Narrow Way Of Christ Means:

2. Taking Up Your Cross

If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross...

Matthew 16:24 ESV

As commonly applied, this is not a very hard saying. As originally intended, it is very hard indeed; no saying could be harder.

FF Bruce

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-29 ESV

I have been crucified with Christ...

Galatians 2:20 ESV

If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

John 14:15 ESV

The Narrow Way Of Christ Means:

3. Follow Him

**...let him deny himself and take up his cross
and follow me.**

Matthew 16:24 ESV

Follow = Go After or Obey

The Narrow Way Of Christ Means:

4. The Great Paradox Of Following Jesus

**For whoever would save his life will lose it, but
whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.**

Matthew 16:25 ESV

I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:8-11 ESV

The Narrow Way Of Christ Means:

5. The Summary Question Of Jesus

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?

Matthew 16:26 ESV

1. Choose To Die That You Might Truly Live

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

Romans 6:5-8 ESV

2. Choose To Die Daily

And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”

Luke 9:23 ESV