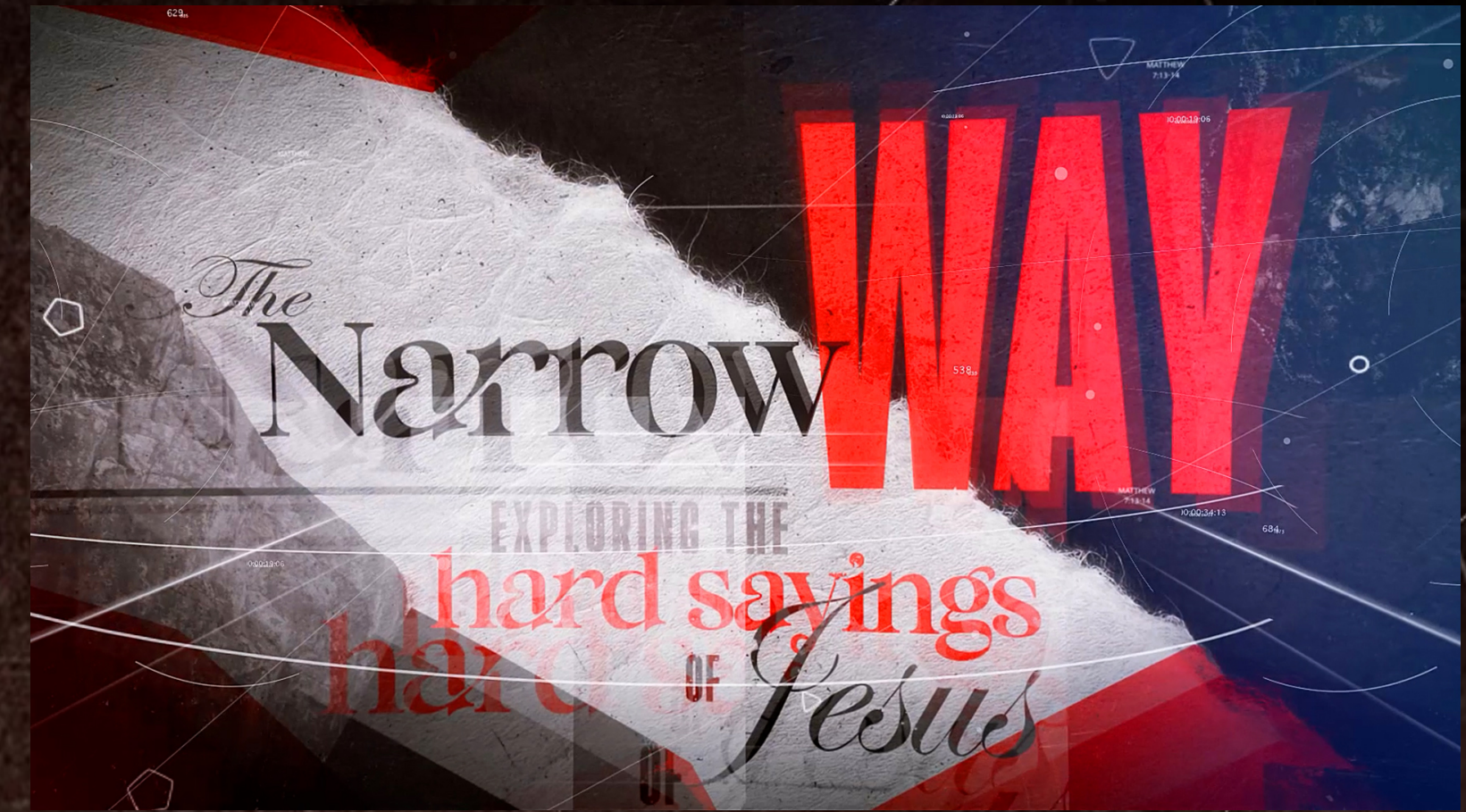


The Narrow Way

Week 3

The Problem With Idols



Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp - Reston Bible Church - Sunday, November 30, 2025

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

Week 3 – The Problem With Idols

And behold, a man came up to Him, saying,
“Teacher, what good deed must I do **to have
eternal life?**” And He said to him, “Why do you
ask Me about what is good? There is **only One
who is good.**”

If you would enter life, keep the commandments. He said to Him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness,

Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” The young man said to him, “**All these I have kept.** What do I still lack? Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, **sell what you possess** and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, **follow Me.**”

When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven.

Again I tell you, it is **easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle** than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Matthew 19:16-26 ESV

1. Focus: the Question of Eternal Life

What good deed must I do to have eternal life?

Matthew 19:16 ESV

And He said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only One who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.

Matthew 19:17 ESV

2. Discussion on Keeping The Commandments

If you would enter life, keep the commandments.

Matthew 19:17 ESV

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the **gift of God, not a result of works**, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.”

Matthew 5:21-22 ESV

**I do not nullify the grace of God, for if
righteousness were through the law, then
Christ died for no purpose.**

Galatians 2:21 ESV

...For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.

Galatians 2:21 NLT

3. Jesus Reveals the Heart

Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

Matthew 19:21 ESV

Perfect – Being complete of its kind, and without defect or blemish; fully developed.

If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:3 ESV

And the twelve were with Him, and also some women...Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

Luke 8:1-3 ESV

He [Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich.

Luke 19:1-2 ESV

And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord,
“Behold, Lord, **the half of my goods I give to the poor.** And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Luke 19:8-10 ESV

4. Conclusion: The Idolatry of Possessions

Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”

Matthew 19:24 ESV

1. Embrace God as the Giver of All

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down **from the Father** of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

James 1:17 ESV

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But **seek first the kingdom of God** and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:31-33 ESV

2. Rely on God & Use Resources

“...for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

Luke 12:15 ESV

And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Luke 12:19-21 ESV

3. Be a Good Steward of God's Resources

Moreover, it is required of **stewards** that they be found **faithful**.

1 Corinthians 4:2 ESV

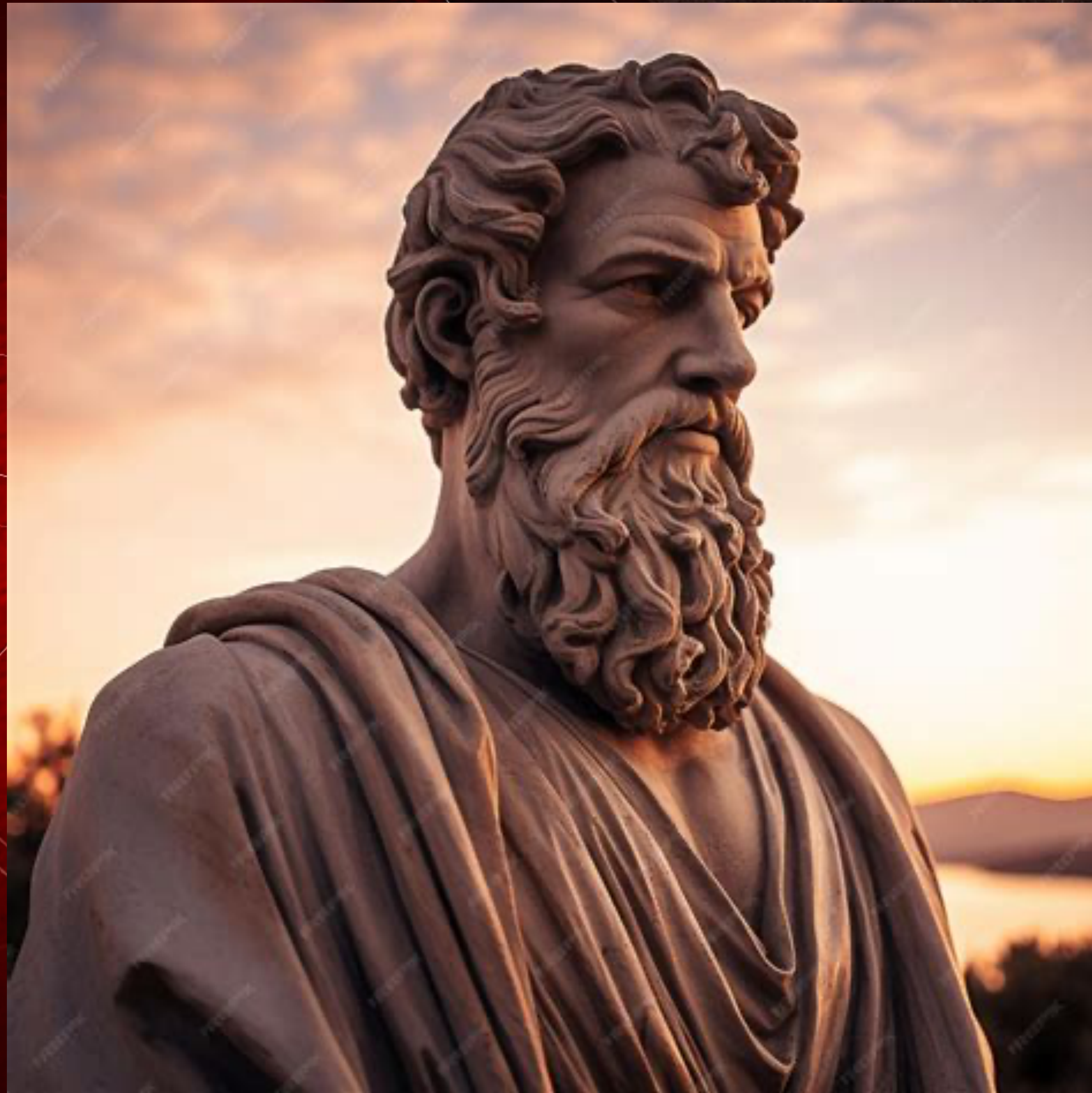
He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 ESV

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich

fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

1 Timothy 6:6-10 ESV



**“He who doesn’t find
little enough will find
nothing enough.”**

Epicurus

4. Be a Purposeful & Generous Giver

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, **not reluctantly** or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.**

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 ESV

God entrusts us with money as a test; for like a toy to the child, it is training for handling things of greater value.

- **Embrace God as the Giver of All**
- **Rely on God and Use Resources**
- **Be a Good Steward of God's Resources**
- **Be a Purposeful and Generous Giver**