

**Too!**

**Intro: As a preacher I've always been challenged by the Lord's words in Mt. 7.**

*"Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. "For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it. (Matthew 7:13-14)*

**Simply put Jesus said, "Most people will not make it to heaven". Here we are, dedicating ourselves to trying to save everyone, knowing that with most people we will not succeed. It is part of the burden of being a preacher of the gospel that I preach knowing that most people will not listen to my message!**

**But why is this? Why do most people neglect to enter the strait and narrow? As we listen to them, there is one word that keeps coming up in their conversations about spiritual things—"Too". It is the one consistent theme in their words when you ask, "Why are you not a Christian?" Some will say...**

**I'm "too young" to think about God**

*"I'm still young. I have my whole life before me. I want to have fun. I'll make time for God when I'm older."*

*A lot of young people want to "sow their wild oats" and then pray for a crop failure. Many young people do not anticipate the consequences of their choices.*

*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life. (Galatians 6:7-8)*

*Why lose the best years of your life sowing to the flesh and reaping sorrow and destruction? Instead listen to the words of Solomon!*

*"Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth, and walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes; but know, that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, and put away evil from your flesh; for youth and the dawn of life are vanity. Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come, and the years draw nigh, when you shall say, I have no pleasure in them"(Eccl. 11:9-12:1).*

*The idea behind Solomon's statement is that true blessing is not in an immoral life, but in a life of wisdom, directed by God. Young people don't let youthful desires cause you to miss the strait and narrow way that leads to true happiness and to eternal life!*

**I'm "too busy..." to think about God**

*Life is full of responsibilities – job, family, education, recreation, home maintenance, friendships, social life, entertainment. God can easily be crowded out by the busyness of life.*

*The Lord told the story of some who were “too busy” with the affairs of this world.*

*But He said to him, “A certain man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for everything is ready now.’ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.’ And another one said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.’ And another one said, ‘I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.’” (Luke 14:16-20)*

*Notice that all these people were preoccupied with this earthly life and nothing they were doing was inherently immoral. They just had wrong priorities.*

*Jesus in the parable of the sower warned of the dangers of preoccupation with worldly pursuits that would keep people from a spiritually fruitful life.*

*And the seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity. (Luke 8:14)*

*Don't allow yourself to become so busy with life that you don't have time for God.*

### **I'm “too happy...” to think about God**

*Sometimes people are just enjoying this life too much to think about the next life! Why long for heaven, when it appears you can make your own heaven right here on earth? It is an illusion!*

*Consider the words of Jesus!*

*And He said to them, “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions. And He told them a parable, saying, “The land of a certain rich man was very productive. And he began reasoning to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘This is what I will do:*

*I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?’ So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” (Luke 12:15-21)*

*Does this have a modern ring to it? The rich man had decided to make his heaven on earth! Someone suggested that the rich man made three serious mistakes:*

*Mistook his checkbook for His Bible  
Mistook his body for his soul  
Mistook time for eternity*

*Don't let the quest for the "good life" keep you from entering the strait and narrow. It's a bad bargain.*

*"For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?  
(Matthew 16:26)*

### **I'm "too smart..." to think about God**

*We live in an information age; but our new-found knowledge has not brought mankind any closer to God. In fact, man's knowledge of the world becomes the rationale for rejecting Him; everything can be explained without God. But even this is not new!*

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

*Professing to be wise, they became fools, (Romans 1:18-22)*

*Regrettably, for those who often say "too" there is one "too" that they don't often state but they need to hear. One day it will be...*

### **"Too late..." to think about God**

*There is nothing more tragic than to die without God*

*"Now there was a certain rich man, and he was clothed in purple and fine linen, faring sumptuously every day: and a certain beggar named Lazarus was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table; yea, even the dogs come and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and that he was carried away by the angels into Abraham's bosom... and the rich man also died, and was buried. And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and sees Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things: but now here he is comforted and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, that they that would pass from here to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us." (Luke 16:19-26)*

*For that man it was “too late” to think about God. Don’t let that happen to you!*

**Conclusion: Jesus has already told you and me that we will not persuade everyone to enter the strait and narrow; but I’ll die trying to persuade you!**

**“We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: ‘In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” (II Cor. 6:1-2)**