

E-Series

Forever and Ever, Amen



13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. **14** But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." —**Matthew 7:13-14**

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www.michaelaturner.net.

Well, it's over. It's been a great month, but now The Vow sermon series is in the history books. I hope that it has been meaningful for you, whether you are married, single, or single again.

Yesterday, we finished up by talking about two words: work and focus. We also looked at Jesus' words from Matthew 7 about the narrow and broad roads.

It reminds me of Malfunction Junction, the intersection of I-26 and I-20 in Columbia. That intersection is always a mess, but especially around 8 am or 5 pm. In fact, if you're trying to take the I-20 exit toward Florence, it will take lots of focus and work.

If you travel that way very often, you know how it is. Everybody is rushing along in bumper to bumper traffic, people whizzing in and out of lanes. If you want to make I-20 exit toward Florence, you have to start working your way over to the right as far back as Harbison and no later than Piney Grove. If you don't, you will just get swept along. If you are not intentional, you'll never be able to make that exit.

Even after you work your way over to the right, you have to really be careful because there's all this traffic coming into the interstate from St. Andrew's Road and up onto to 26 from 20. You've got to pay attention, because they're whizzing in and out. And if you get over **too** early, you'll be heading to Augusta on I-20. If you get over **too late**, you'll be on Bush River Road.

Patience. Focus. That's what it takes. The interstate is wide, with some lanes continuing on into Columbia, some continuing on to Charleston, but the exit ramp...the exit ramp is narrow. There are all these lanes and cars going in other directions, so you have to keep laser-like focus.

It takes that kind of focus. It takes that kind of work and intentionality to keep your marriage strong. There'll be lots of traffic trying to take you off in other directions. There will be lots of distractions. There is a cultural current that will sweep you off to places you don't want to go. But, if you keep your loves in order, and keep your focus your marriage relationship will be strong for Forever and Ever, Amen.

Again, go to www.michaelaturner.net and share your thoughts.

Working on Focus,
Pastor Michael