



PART 2: The Exclusivity of Christ - Is Jesus the Only Way?

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WARM UP QUESTION: Can you think of examples where exclusion is unhealthy? Healthy examples? What is the primary fear associated with exclusion?

READ: *John 14; 6, Mathew 7:13-14, 21-23, John 6:28-29*

FOCUS: The exclusivity of Christ is rooted in history, calls us to humility and offers us joy and love.

OBSERVE:

- **What is exclusivity?:** It can be bad if it is based on arrogance or oppression. However it can also be good, such as the exclusiveness of marriage, self-evident truth, patents and copyrights. The creator of something has the exclusive right to say what happens to what they created. God created us and has the exclusive right to determine how we approach Him.
- **Jesus made exclusive truth claims about Himself:** He said He was the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He said we must believe in Him who was sent by God (Jesus). He said we must enter through the narrow gate, which is hard, but leads to life.
- **We must enter through the narrow gate:** Mathew 5,6,7:1-12, the Sermon on the Mount, gives Jesus's discourse on

how to live so we may enter through the narrow gate. This is the exclusive way to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

- **Six facts to show Jesus was rooted in history:** He was a real person. He was killed by crucifixion. His disciples believed He rose from the dead and that He appeared to them. His tomb was empty. Saul of Tarsus was converted after an encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus's half-brother James was a skeptic but became a believer.

REFLECT:

- How does the exclusivity of Christ call us to humility?
- How does the exclusivity of Christ offer us joy and love?

TAKE ACTION:

- Reread the Sermon on the Mount (Mathew 5-7) and think of some areas you can work on to help you enter the narrow gate
- Pray to keep your focus on Jesus and your belief in Him as the exclusive way to God

PRAY:

Jesus, thank You for providing the Way to the Father. Thank You that Your Way is not dependent on our own effort or intelligence but only requires surrender, acknowledging that we are sinful, and accepting what You have done for us in Your death and resurrection on the Cross. Help us to rest in the mercy of Your exclusivity - that You are the only way - and expose the futility of any other effort to save and justify ourselves. Amen.

