

“The Handbasket Road”

Scripture Reading:

“Wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.” — Matthew 7:13

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” — Proverbs 14:12

Sermon

You’ve probably heard the phrase **“going to hell in a handbasket.”** It sounds harsh, even old-fashioned — but the meaning is simple:

It describes people being carried toward destruction **comfortably, quietly, and without resistance.**

Notice — not running, not fighting, not even walking — just riding along.

Jesus warned about this kind of travel:

“Wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.” (Matthew 7:13)

The wide road doesn’t look dangerous. It doesn’t shout, “This way to ruin!” It feels normal. Easy. Convenient. Safe.

That’s what the “handbasket” is — **comfort without direction.**

A Short Story

A farmer once watched two men traveling the same countryside.

One man walked a narrow dirt path. It was rocky and steep. He had to stop often, watch his footing, and choose his steps carefully.

The second man rode in a hand-pulled basket driven by a mule. The ride looked easier. The road was wide and smooth, with music playing and people laughing as the mule kept going forward.

At the fork in the road, the basket path continued wide and downhill — while the narrow path climbed upward.

Hours later, the farmer found the narrow traveler resting safely on solid ground overlooking a beautiful valley.

But the mule basket had rolled off a steep ravine further down the slope — because **no one ever stopped to check where the road was going.**

The riders weren't doing anything "wrong."

They were simply **not paying attention to where they were headed.**

The Point

That's the danger of the "handbasket road."

It's not usually blatant rebellion — it's **easy drifting.**

- Drifting from prayer
- Drifting from Scripture
- Drifting from accountability
- Drifting with culture instead of Christ

We don't fall into spiritual ruin by sudden collapse — **we slide by small compromises**, step after step:

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." — **Romans 12:2**

The Good News

Jesus doesn't just warn us about the road — **He offers us a new path.**

"I am the way, the truth, and the life." — **John 14:6**

The narrow way isn't easy — but it's safe.

It leads upward — not because *we're strong*, but because **Christ walks with us.**

Closing Challenge

Ask yourself today:

Am I walking with Jesus — or riding in a handbasket with the crowd?

Comfort isn't the goal.

Christ is.

Choose to step out of the basket...

And walk the narrow way that leads to Life.
