

The Broad Way And The Narrow Way

Matt 7:13-14

Introduction:

- A. Everyone is on a spiritual journey as they travel through life. Whether religious or not, we travel a spiritual path. Every day we make choices that affects the direction in which we are headed.
- B. Many people think that the paths we can travel are many. In one sense that may be true; there are all kinds of religions. But in another sense, there are really only two paths.
- C. In His sermon on the mount, Jesus spoke of these two ways. Each with its own beginning, each with its own end. One way is heavily populated, the other is traveled by few.
- D. Where are you in your spiritual sojourn? Are you on the right way? Are you heading in the right direction? Or, are you headed the wrong way?
- E. To answer such questions, let's look closely at what Jesus said. Note first that...

I. *There Are Two Gates*

A. The Wide Gate

- 1. This “gate” represents the beginning to the “way” that leads to destruction
- 2. It is described as “wide” — evidently it is a gate which:
 - a. Allows many to enter with no sacrifice on their part
 - 1) It does not require giving up anything
 - 2) One can bring along whatever “baggage” they desire — materialism, an unforgiving spirit, or believe whatever one wants to believe
 - b. Is therefore chosen by most people
 - 1) For there are no restrictions...
 - 2) It is also opens the way to “the path of least resistance”

B. The Narrow Gate

- 1. This “gate” represents the beginning, or starting point, to the “way” that leads to life
- 2. Why is it “narrow”? Because it is a gate which:

- a. Requires self-denial and obedience - Matt. 16:24
- b. Has no room for...
 - 1) A consuming desire for earthly goods - Matt. 6:19-20
 - 2) An unforgiving spirit - Matt. 6:14-15
 - 3) Self-righteousness - Matt. 6:1
- C. These two “gates” are only the starting points. Let’s now take a closer look at the fact that...

II. *There Are Two Ways*

A. The Broad Way

- 1. The way that leads to destruction is broad because it allows:
 - a. Any behavior one desires
 - b. No need for reformation or changes in one’s lifestyle
- 2. Many people love this path
 - a. They think they are “free”
 - b. They believe they are “open-minded”
 - c. They view themselves as “tolerant” of others

B. The Constricted Way

- 1. Translated “narrow is the way” (KJV), or “difficult is the way” (NKJV)
- 2. The picture is one of a narrow and difficult path between two cliffs
- 3. The way that leads to life is “difficult” because it requires:
 - a. A righteousness that exceeds that of many religious people - Matt. 5:20
 - b. A change in our behavior - Matt. 5:21-7:12
- 4. Because of its difficulty, many choose not to travel its path
 - a. They think it too “confining”
 - b. They think it is too “narrow-minded”

- C. As Jesus describes the two gates and the two ways, He also reminds us that...

III. *There Are Two Groups*

A. The Many

- 1. “...there are many who enter through it” (Matt. 7:13)
- 2. We have seen reasons why this is so:

- a. The entrance is wide: “Come as you are! No changes necessary!”
 - b. The way is broad: “Make your own rules! Believe what you want! Do what you want!”
 3. This is the way people travel by default; unless they are actively seeking the narrow path, this is the one they will travel
- B. The Few
1. “...there are few who find it” (Matt. 7:14)
 2. As proven true so often in the past, only few will be saved
 - a. The millions lost in the flood vs. the eight saved on the ark (Noah & his family)
 - b. The hundreds of thousands lost in the wilderness vs. the two who entered the promised land (Joshua & Caleb)
 - c. So Jesus warned on another occasion - Lk 13:23-24
 3. That it must be “found” suggests effort must be extended
 - a. As Jesus said in Lk 13:24: “Strive to enter through the narrow door...”
 - 1) Even then not all will be saved: “...for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.”
 - 2) Not just effort, but the right kind of effort – Matt 6:33
- C. Finally, we note that Jesus tells us that...

IV. *There Are Two Destinations*

A. Destruction

1. “...the way is broad that leads to destruction”
2. Paul wrote of the “everlasting destruction” that is to come - 2 Thess 1:7-9
3. John described it as “a lake of fire” (Rev. 20:15; 21:8)
4. A most sobering thought are these words of Jesus: “...there are many who enter through it.”

B. Life

1. “...the way is narrow that leads to life”
2. This “life” is the “everlasting life” received at the judgment - Matt. 25:46
3. It is the “gift of God”, given at the end - Rom. 6:22-23

- a. To those who have been set free from sin - Rom. 6:3-7
 - b. To those who became slaves of God and of righteousness - Rom. 6:17-18
 - c. Those who bore the fruit of holiness - Rom 6:20-22
4. Another sobering thought are these words about the way that leads to this life: "...there are few who find it."

Conclusion:

- A. So we have seen that Jesus describes:
 1. Two gates
 2. Two ways
 3. Two groups
 4. Two destinations
- B. Are there many roads that lead to heaven?
 1. Many people like to think so
 2. That all religions lead to heaven
 3. That it really doesn't matter what you believe or do, as long as you are sincere
- C. But according to Jesus...
 1. There are only two roads (ways)
 2. One leads to life — heaven
 3. The other road, filled with many people with many different beliefs, leads to destruction!
- D. Which road will you travel? The broad way or the narrow way.