

Matthew 7:13-23

I, Introduction

~ Main Body Teaching Over

~ Choice Is Presented, With

2 Kinds Of Righteous (Self & God's)

2 Kinds Of Treasures (Heaven & Earth)

2 Kinds Of Masters (God & Mammon)

2 Kinds Of Ambitions (Seek His K. Or . . .)

? What Does The Sermon On The Mount Require Of Us?

~ It's Time To Choose – K. Of Satan Or God

- The Prevailing Culture/Christian Counter-Culture

~ Now He Describes

2 Ways To Go In Life

2 Types Of Teachers To Follow

2 Pleas To Make At The Judgment Seat

2 Foundations To Build Upon (Sand Or Rock)

Read Matt 7:13-14. 2 Ways, 2 Gates, 2 Groups Of People, 2 Destinations

Ps 1:6 "For The Lord Watches Over The Way Of The Righteous, But The Way Of The Wicked Will Perish"

~ The Righteous Delight In God's Law, Bear Fruit And Prosper

~ The Wicked Are Driven Like Chaff Before The Wind And Perish

II. The Two Ways

? God Commands That We Enter The Narrow Gate. If We Are Saved By God's Sovereign Will & Election, Why Does He Need To Command Us To Enter His Kingdom?

A. Broad Way (Path Of Least Resistance)

1. Described

- ~ Road, Spacious Roomy, - Enticing Bright Lights
Lots Of Action/Excitement
- Every City, Town, Village, Has A Broadway
- ~ NYC “Make It On Broadway”
- ~ Room To Go This Way Or That (Right Or Left)
- ~ No Curbs, No Boundaries, Luring
- ~ If Winds Blow This Way – Travelers ~ If Tide Moves That Way. .

? What Are The Advantages Of Living Life On The Broad Way?

2. **Abundance Of Liberty**

- ~ Diversity Of Opinion ~ Laxity Of Morals
- ~ Tolerance/Permissiveness ~ Beliefs (All Roads Lead To Same Plce)
- ~ Thought Or Conduct ~ Follow Own Inclinations
- ~ Self-Love; Hypocrisy; False Ambition; Lasciviousness
- ~ Think They Are Free ~ Believe They Are Open-Minded
- ~ “Live For Today”

3. **Easy/Ease**

- ~ No Need For Change/Reformation; ~ No Need Change Lifestyle
- ~ Adopt Your Own Way, Find Your Own Way - “I Did It My Way”
- ~ It’s The I’m Ok/You’re Ok Generation
- ~ Do Your Own Thing As Long As You Don’t Violate Rights Of Others
Doing Their Own Thing
- ~ **Exceptions:**
 - ~ Some In Here Try To Resist Flow – It Can Be Difficult
 - ~ Some Are Exceptionally Evil & Their Way Says You Can Violate The
Rights Of Others – So You Have Murder, Mayhem, Genocide, War,
That’s Their Inclination.

? How Would You Disciple/Counsel A Christian Who Seems To Be Living Life In The Broad Way?

B. The Narrow Way (Difficult/Hard)

1. Described

- ~ **Clear Boundaries – Like Sheer Cliff**
- ~ **Hedged In By Divine Law – No Turning To Right Or Left (E.G. Balaam’s Ass)**
- ~ **It’s Difficult At Times Because We Have To Travel Against Our Inclination**

? What Limitations, Or Difficulties Are Encountered Living Life On The Narrow Way?

2. Limitations On:

- ~ **What You Believe & Your Opinion**
- ~ **How We May Conduct Ourselves & The Direction We May Go**
- ~ **Must Travel With Care And Circumspection**

3. Difficulty/Hardships

- ~ **Requires A Righteousness That Exceeds That Of Many Religious People**
- ~ **Requires A Change In Our Behavior (E.G. Sermon On Mt/Counter Culture)**
- ~ **Must Endure Hardship & Go Through Much Tribulation**
- ~ **Reason: We Carry Flesh/Sin**
- ~ **Persecution**
- ~ **We’re Ambassadors For Christ – Scattered – Not Home**
- ~ **Sojourners Like The Jews When Taken Into Exile – Scattered Among The Nations - God’s People Are Scattered Throughout The Earth**
- ~ **Chrysostrum Pointed Out That His Hard & Narrow Way Is Also To Be Welcomed As His “Easy Yoke” & “Light Burden”**
- ~ **Jesus Said “I Am The Way”**
- ~ **Jesus Is Carrying Us Through**

Ps 1:6 “....The Lord Watches Over The Way Of The Righteous”

? Is It Possible To Find Worldly Success And Be Committed To Life On The Narrow Way?

How?

C. 2 Gates: - City Gates (Huge Dbl Door)

1. Wide Gate

1. **Easily Seen - Visible**
2. **Easy Access**
 - ~ **No Limit To Luggage/Baggage You Can Take In**
 - ~ **It Can Accommodate Many**

- ~ Bring Along Your Idols
- ~ Default – Automatically Go In Life
- 3. **Costs Nothing To Enter**
 - ~ Don't Have To Give Up Anything
 - ~ Bring Along Your Materialism, Unforgiveness, All Your Sins
 - ~ Believe Whatever You Want
 - ~ Don't Have To Change Your Heart

2. **Narrow Gate**

Luke. 13:24 "Strive To Enter Through The Narrow Gate . . . Many Will Seek To Enter But Not Able. . ."

- 1. **Difficult Access (Must Be Found – Right Kind Of Effort)**
 - ~ Costs You Something – Your Life -Die To Yourself
 - ~ Must Look For It To Find It, *Jesus Says, "Only A Few Find It"*
 - ~ Corner Of City
 - ~ Not Looking For It
 - ~ Must Leave Baggage Behind
 - ~ Have To Have A Change Of Heart / Desire / Toward God's Law/ Word
 - ~ Have To Be Willing To Give Up Resentments
 - ~ Self-Righteousness
 - ~ Deny Self / Sacrifice Self
 - ~ We Find It By Forsaking All If Necessary & Following Christ
 - ~ Jesus Said "*I Am The Door*" – Access Is Through Him
 - ~ It's Narrow, But Praise God, Not Shut Up

? What Did It Cost You, What Did You Have To Leave Behind Upon Entering The Narrow Gate? (What Did You Lose (Family/Friends))

D. **2 Groups Of People:**

1. **The Many**

- ~ Lots Of Company – There's Comfort In Numbers
- ~ "Everybody's Doing It" (Comfort In Saying This) – Another Opinion Poll
- ~ The Wide Entrance Makes It Easy
- ~ Since It's The Broadway – Make Own Rules "*Do It My Way*"
- ~ A Busy Thoroughfare – Thronged By Pedestrians Of Every Kind

2. The Few

- ~ Sometimes Seems Deserted
- ~ Flood – Millions Lost But Only 8 Saved
- ~ Hundreds Of Thousands Lost In Wilderness – Only 2 Entered Promised Land
- ~ A Despised Minority Group
 - Imprisonment
 - Persecution, Even Death Hebrews 11 For Description
- ~ Must Learn To Get Along – Forgive One Another – Bear One-Another's Burden
- ~ Singing Songs Of Expectation To Promised Land

• Cannot Speculate That # Of Redeemed Will Be Small

~ Compare Scripture W/Scripture

Rev. 7:9 After This I Looked & There Before Me Was A Great Multitude That No One Could Count, From Every Nation, Tribe, People & Language, Standing Before The Throne And In Front Of The Lamb. They Were Wearing White Robes & Were Holding Palm Branches In Their Hand."

? How Would You Explain This Apparent Contradiction?

- ~ One Explanation – In Jesus Day Only Few Save
- ~ Jesus Was Asked - He Didn't Answer
 - Luke 13:23,24 "Someone Asked Him, 'Lord, Are Only A Few People Going To Be Saved?'"*
- ~ It Could Be The World Has Many More Thousands Of Years, Or Even 100,000s Of Thousands, And Many Will Be Saved, Even More Ultimately Than Will Be Lost

E. Two Destinations

1. Life

- ~ Eternal Life
- ~ Received At The Judgment
 - Matt 25:46 "Then They Will Go Away To Eternal Punishment, But The Righteous To Eternal Life."*
- ~ To Those Set Free From Sin & Pursue Holiness
 - Rom 6:22-23 "But Now That You Have Been Set Free From Sin And Have Become Slaves To God, The Benefit You Reap Leads To Holiness, And The Result Is Eternal Life."*
- ~ Gift Of God
 - Rom 6: 23 "For The Wages Of Sin Is Death, But The Gift Of God Is Eternal Life In Christ Jesus Our Lord."*
- ~ To Those Who Sow To The Spirit
 - Gal. 6:8 "...A Man Reaps What He Sows. The One Who Sows To Please His Sinful Nature, From That Nature Will Reap Destruction; He Who Sows To Please The Spirit, From The Spirit Will Reap Eternal Life."*

~ **To Those Who Are Called**

I Tim. 6:12 "Fight The Good Fight Of The Faith. Take Hold Of The Eternal Life To Which You Were Called When You Made Your Good Confession In The Presence Of Many Witnesses."

~ **To Those Who Are Justified**

Titus 3:7 "So That, Having Been Justified By His Grace, We Might Become Heirs Having The Hope Of Eternal Life."

~ **Promised To His People**

I Jn2:25 "And This Is What He Promised Us – Even Eternal Life."

~ **To Those Who Believe In The Son Of God**

I Jn 5:13 "I Write These Things To You Who Believe In The Name Of The Son Of God So That You May Know That You Have Eternal Life."

2. Destruction

~ **Jesus Did Not Define This – Perhaps The Nature Of Hell Is As Much Beyond Our Finite Understanding As The Precise Nature Of Heaven.**

~ **Destruction – Everything Good Will Be Destroyed In Hell**

- **Love, Joy, Peace, Hope**

- **A Prospect Too Awful To Imagine**

~ **For Those Who Do Not Know God Or Obey The Gospel**

Thess. 1:8,9 "He Will Punish Those Who Do Not Know God And Do Not Obey The Gospel Of Our Lord Jesus. They Will Be Punished With Everlasting Destruction And Shut Out From The Presence Of The Lord And From The Majesty Of His Power"

~ **Please Note: They Are "Shut Out From The Presence Of The Lord" - Heaven Is In Presence With The Lord**

~ **For Those Whose Names Are Not Written In The Book Of Life.**

Rev 20:15 "If Anyone's Name Was Not Found Written In The Book Of Life, He Was Thrown Into The Lake Of Fire"

~ **It's Described As A Lake Of Fire**

~ **It's For Ungodly Men**

2 Pet. 3:7 "By The Same Word The Present Heavens And Earth Are Reserved For Fire, Being Kept For The Day Of Judgment And Destruction Of Ungodly Men."

~ **The Broad Road Is A Suicide Road**

F. Conclusion

1. Choice – Two Ways

~ **Adv. & Disadvantages Always Making A Decision**

~ **Nobody Chooses Because Of Disadvantages**

~ **Broadway – Advantages**

?What Are Some of the Advantages To Life On The Broad Road?

- + Immediate Rewards *Jesus “They Have Rec’d Their R.”*
- + Narrow – Future Rewards – For Long Term – Freud “Delayed Gratification”
- + Jobs Not Always Easy, But The Retirement Benefits Are Out Of This World.
- + However “One Hour In Heaven More Than Compensates, Makes Up For A Lifetime Of Sacrifice Or Even Suffering.”
- + Paul Says It This Way, “The Sufferings Of This Present Age Is Not Worthy Of Comparison To The Glory Which Shall Be Revealed In Us.” He Says ‘Light Suffering’ Now For An ‘Eternal Weight Or Glory.’

2. Some Christians Today Want To Have It Both Ways.

- + Fire Insurance/Retirement Benefits - But Avoid Self Denial/Sacrifice Pleasing Self And Avoid Doing Things You Don’t Want To Do,
- + If You Are Trying To Have Your Cake And Eat It Too In Life –
- + My Exhortation Is: Are You Willing To Obey Jesus Even
 - To The Point Of Suffering, If Need Be
 - When It Hurts
 - When It Cost You Time/Money
 - It Means Giving Up Pleasures Of Egypt - Wilderness
 - Being More Involved In Church
 - Obeying God’s Law
 - Identifying With A Persecuted Minority
 - If It Means Changing You Goals, Ambitions, Attitudes In Life To Reflect Those Taught In The Sermon On The Mount.

- + It’s Not Always An Easy Life - One Minute In Hell Is Not Worth A Life Of Pleasure/Perfect

READ MATTHEW 7:15-23

II. False Prophets/Teachers

- ~ Pseudo – False, Lie
- ~ Prophet Speaks/Teaches/Expounds God’s Word (Teacher)
- ~ Scribes & Pharisees In Mind

A. Warning – There Will Be False Prophets

1. Paul Warned On Several Occasions

- ~ To Ephesian Elders (Acts 20:28-31) From Among Selves
- ~ To Church At Corinth (2 Cor11:3-5; 13-15) – The Were There Speaking Out Against Paul “*Appearing As Angels Of Light.*”
- ~ To Timothy – Causing Apostasy (1 Tim 4:1-3)

2. Other Nt Writers

- ~ 2 Pet 2:1-3 Seductive, Secretly Introducing Destructive Heresies
- ~ I John 4:1 “Test The Spirits”
- ~ Jude V3,4 Godless Men Who Change The Grace Of Lord For A License For Immorality

B. They Are Destructive To The Souls Of Men.

- ~ Teaching Another God, Another Jesus, Another Gospel & Not Sparing The Flock
- ~ Lead Into Wrong Path – The Broad Way

C. 1st Century

- Scribes/Pharisees
- Gnostics
- Judiazers
- Others

D. Metaphors

? Why Do You Think The Wolf Is A Good Description Of A False Teacher?

1. Wolves

- ~ Dogs & Pigs Were Ceremonially Unclean/Dirty Habits
- ~ Wolves Treacherous Predator
- ~ Jn 10:12 By Wolf Is Meant The Devil.
- ~ Crafty, Cruel
- ~ Seducers
- ~ Wolf - Sneaks In And Devours *-Little Red Riding Hood*
(Upon Close Inspection-Not Grandma)
- ~ Denotes Powerful, Fierce & Coveteous Men

~ Even When They're Gone And Dead Their Perverse Doctrine Does Mischief In The Church.

2. **Sheep's Clothing - Appear Disarming Like "Angels Of Light"**
 - a. **May Appear Gentle Meek**
 - b. **May Have High Sounding Titles & Academic Degrees**

3. **Fruit - A Tree Sooner Or Later Betrays Itself By Its Fruit**
 - ~ Every Tree Bares Its Own Fruit
 - ~ Rose Bushes Do Not Produce Oranges
 - ~ Thorns – Useless – Creation - Curse
 - ~ Sticker Trees - Our Street Growing Up (Pods) - Cut Down

E. The Fruit Of Their Lives (Character/Conduct)

1. **Antinomian – 2 Pet**
 - ~ Works Of The Flesh
 - Sexual Impurity
 - Self-Indulgence
 - Greediness (Look At Their Lavish Lifestyle)
 - Lust For Power
 - Emphasize Grace Over Obedience
 - Jealousy
 - Immorality

F. Their Methods

- ~ Working Secretly 2 Pet. Secretly Bringing In Destructive Heresies
- ~ Working Secretly Ministries (Esp. Finances Shrouded In Secrecy)
- ~ Appealing To Covetousness – Draw People To Health & Wealth Instead Of What A Christian Should Expect
- ~ Using Deceptive Words
 - + Redefining Terms Like Justification, Salvation, Atonement, Etc.
 - + Misusing The Word Of God - Satan V. Jesus Temptation: Have It Now,

E. Their Doctrine & Teaching Itself

1. **Doctrine**
 - ~ Trinity, -Deity Of Christ -Person & Work Of Christ
 - Physical Resurrection Of Christ - Virgin Birth
 - Authority Of God's Word

2. **Major Characteristic - Amoral Optimism**
 - ~ Denial God As God Of Judgment As Well As Steadfast Love & Mercy

- ~ E.G. Ahab (Fighting Aram – Ramoth Gilead) - Jehoshaphat
(Inquire Of Lord) 400 Prophets “Go” - Not One ‘Of Lord’
Micaiah (Hate Always Bad)
- ~ Denial Of Hell - Sin
- ~ W/O Sin & Man’s Condemnation Before God – No Need For
Atonement/Savior

3. Or They’ll Try To Make The Narrow Way Much Broader
4. Legalistic - Rely On Own Self/Own Works – Merit

F. Conclusion – Not Necessary To Judge The Hearts Of False Teachers

- ~ Need To Be Fruit Inspectors
- ~ Need To Have Knowledge Of God’s Word & Doctrine
- ~ Hos 4:6 “My People Are Destroyed For Lack Of Knowledge”

iii. Who Will Get Into Heaven (Let’s Talk About)

? V. 21-23, Day Of Judgment, What Are Some Of The Things We Know About These People On The Last Day?

- ~ “Lord, Lord” They Believe In Jesus John 12:42-43 (& Even Demons Believe)
- ~ “Lord, Lord” – Reiteration Expresses Surprise
- ~ “Did We Not” Many Good Works, Miracles (Spiritual Looking/Religious Things)
- ~ “Many”

? Why Didn’t They Get To Heaven After Having Done So Many Good Works?

- ~ Salvation By Grace Not Meritorious Works (Titus 3:3-7)

? If Not By Meritorious Works, Then Why Does He Say “But Only He Who Does The Will Of My Father?”

- ~ Live By God’s Law, Narrow Way
- ~ Were “Evildoers” NIV Or Translate “Lawless” Antinomian - Sinful Lives
- ~ Note: “My Father” Not Your Father

? What’s The Significance Of The Word “Never” In V. 23?

- ~ From The Foundation Of The World “Knew You”
- ~ God’s Elect Are Saved By Grace To Do Good Works (I.E. Father’s Will) By Grace
- ~ Their Acquaintance With The Lord Is Not Broken Off, It Never Existed.
- ~ They Act As If They Are On Good Terms With The Lord.

A. Away From Me.... The Three Most Horrific Words

SERMON ON THE MOUNT (MATTHEW 7:12-23)

I. Introduction

II. Matthew 7:12-13 The Choice

A. The Two Ways/Roads

1. Broad

2. Narrow

B. The Two Gates/Doors

1. Wide

2. Narrow

C. The Two Groups Of People

1. Many

2. Few

D. The Two Destinations

1. Destruction

2. Life

III. Matthew 7:14-20 False Prophets/Teachers

IV. Matthew 21-23 Who Will Get Into Heaven?