TWO WAYS, TWO GATES, TWO DESTINATIONS

Message 20 in “Living The Salt Life” Sermon Series
(A Study of Jesus’ Sermon On The Mount)
Matthew 7:13,14 NKJV

Please turn with me once again to the Gospel of Matthew, chapter seven.

Matthew 7:13, 14 (NKJV)

13 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

PRAYER

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INTRODUCTION

Up to this point in His Sermon on The Mount Jesus has been giving us the various duties and responsibilities that are required of those who desire to be citizens of the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus has made it crystal clear that if we truly want to be a citizen of His kingdom we must live a life that is radically different than the lives of those who are “outside” of the kingdom.

Having spelled out these various duties and responsibilities of “Kingdom living,” Jesus now brings His Sermon down to where “the rubber meets the road.” And that is CHOOSING
TO FOLLOW OR NOT TO FOLLOW JESUS.
In today's text, Jesus offers us the choice between:
TWO WAYS......TWO GATES.......and TWO DESTINATIONS.

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First of all Jesus teaches us everyone must make a choice between..........

I. TWO WAYS

1. Former New York Yankee player and manager, Yogi Berra became a “cultural icon” with his witty remarks, now dubbed “Yogi-isms.”

Yogi Berra gave us words of wisdom like..........

“It ain’t over till its over.”
“A nickle ain’t worth a dime any more.”
“Ninety percent of the game is half mental.”
“Always go to other people’s funerals, otherwise they won’t go to yours.”

And here’s a couple of more........

“When you come to the fork in the road, take it”

“If you don’t know where you’re going you might wind up some place else.”

2. When it comes to ETERNITY, “There is a fork in the road, and if you don’t know where you’re going you might wind up some place else.” And where you
up all depends on which road you take.

3. In our text, Jesus tells us we have a choice of one of two ways:

(A) First, you can choose the **BROAD** way.

When Jesus says the way is “broad,” He means it is “wide open,” in other words “anything goes on the broad way.”

Those who are on the broad road go “mindlessly” about every day without giving a thought as to where that broad road is leading them. Their minds are so preoccupied with the cares of this world they never think about eternal matters or that one day they will stand before their Maker.

The broad road is spacious enough to accommodate the sinner and all his sinful baggage. Travelers on the broad way can **live any way they want** do as they please.....call their own shots.....make their own rules.....and be the “god” of their own lives. They can **GO wherever they want** whatever they want......and BE whatever
they want, because there is no one to please, but SELF.

The only “rule of the road” on the broad way is that everyone must be tolerant of everyone else. The drunks and the drug addicts....the hypocrites and the homosexuals......the dirty politician and the pornographer......they’re all “good buddies” on “the broad way.”

On the broad road you can be as religious or irreligious as you want. You can go to Church or not go to Church. You can be an ATHEIST to a ZEN BUDDHIST.......you can worship anything from MUHAMMED to a MONKEY.

Why on “the broad way” one can even have a form of Christianity where one honors God with his or her lips, but their hearts are far from God.

The “broad way” is easy......attractive......and inclusive. That is why this road is “heavily traveled.” In fact, most people choose “the broad way.”
But Jesus tells us about another WAY. And that is THE NARROW WAY.

Whereas the “broad way” is easy, the narrow way is very difficult. In fact, the Greek word that Jesus uses here for “narrow” literally means "grape press.” It conveys the image of passing through a very tight, constricted passageway.

While the “broad way” is spacious enough for the sinner and all his sinful baggage, on the narrow way one must cast off all his sinful baggage and strip down to his very soul.

The “narrow way” is UN-POPULAR.....COSTLY.....and DEMANDING......and often it is very LONELY.

The “narrow way” requires SURRENDER.....and SACRIFICE and SERVICE. On the “narrow way” travelers will face various levels of OPPOSITION .........PERSECUTION......and AFFLICTION.

On the “narrow way” travelers have to DENY SELF and DIE TO SELF and choose Jesus Christ above everything and everyone!

On “the narrow way” you live to please the
rather than living to please yourself. You obey the Lord’s commands rather than make rules. You surrender to the Lordship of Jesus rather than being the Lord over your own life. Jesus tells us the “narrow way” is lightly traveled. In fact, compared to the traffic on the “broad way” there are very few travelers on “the narrow way.”

Robert Frost once wrote……...

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I--- I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference."

Where you and I end up for all eternity depends on which road we choose. When it comes to eternity, we choose “the road less traveled” we must choose “the narrow way.”

Next Jesus teaches us everyone must make a CHOICE between……....

II. TWO GATES

(A) First, you can choose THE WIDE GATE.

No doubt Jesus was thinking of the gates to the ancient cities. Most cities had a wide gate at the main entrance to the city. Usually the wide entrance gate was
beautifully decorated in fine gold, bronze or silver to attract travelers. Every day scores of people went in and out of that wide entrance gate.

But most cities had a “smaller gate” that was much narrower and not very attractive. Very few people chose to pass through the narrow gate. In fact, many people didn’t even know about the narrow gate.

Jesus is teaching us that “the wide gate” is at the end of “the broad road.” The “wide gate” is attractive and alluring. That is the gate that draws the most people. But that “wide gate” is NOT the entrance way to eternal life, it is the way to eternal destruction. And this is most people will pass through when this life is over.

But then Jesus tells about another gate we can choose and that is THE NARROW GATE.

The “narrow gate” is NOT attractive to the masses. In fact, Jesus tells us there are only a few people who will find the narrow gate.

When you think of a “narrow gate” you think of a gate that is hard to squeeze through.......a gate that is just wide enough to allow one person
time to pass through.

**ILLUSTRATION:** We have a snow white nanny goat
named “Snowflake.” Snowflake stays in a pin out
barn. And there is only “ONE WAY” into
and that is through a very “NARROW GATE” that is
wide enough for one person to pass through. In
gate is so narrow, you’ll tear your shirt or rip your
if you’re not careful.

The scriptures teach us that **the gate** to eternal
life is a very, very narrow gate.

*JOHN 14:6* Jesus said, “I am the WAY, and the
and the LIFE. No man can come to the
by Me.

*ACTS 4:12 (NKJV) Nor is there salvation in any other, for
there is no other name under heaven given among
men by

which we must be saved.”

The scriptures can’t be any more plain!
There is..........

One LORD!
One FAITH!
One BAPTISM!
One GOD AND FATHER OVER ALL
There is ONE BOOK........the BIBLE!

There is ONLY ONE ABSOLUTE

TRUTH.....GOD'S

There is ONLY ONE TRUE

CHURCH......the CHURCH

built by JESUS CHRIST.

And there is ONLY ONE GATE.......ONE VERY

life and

NARROW GATE that leads to eternal

THE LIVING

that is JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF

GOD!

You see, those who are traveling on the “broad

road” believe that all roads eventually lead
to

heaven and it doesn’t matter which one you
take.

They believe one can be A BUDDHIST.....A

HUMANIST

........A SCIENTOLOGISTS.....A MUSLIM.....or

a HINDU

and go to heaven.

The world believes it doesn’t matter if you

follow

the teachings of THE KORAN.....THE

BIBLE......THE

DR. SEUSS’

BOOK OF MORMON.....THE VEDAS.....or

to go to

“GREEN EGGS AND HAM” everybody gets
heaven in the end!

The world accuses Christians of being “narrow minded,” and “exclusive.” Well brothers and sisters when it comes to the matter of salvation we must be as “narrow minded” as the word of GOD itself!

And the WORD OF GOD tells us JESUS is the “narrow gate” that leads to eternal life!

There are TWO WAYS............the broad way and the narrow way. There are TWO GATES............the wide gate and the narrow gate.

And ultimately we have a choice between......

III. Two Destinations

1. Listen carefully to the words of Jesus again...........

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13 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

2. There’s a saying that has been around for over 2,000 years that goes like this: “All roads lead to Rome.”

Well all roads do lead somewhere, including the
two roads we have considered today.

(A) The Broad Way (road) leads to \textbf{HELL}.

Hell is the final destination for everyone who travels “the broad road.” You can’t choose \textbf{the broad way} and end up in heaven!

What makes this thought so horrible is that there may be someone here this morning who is on that road!

If so, please consider your final destination should you choose to stay on “\textbf{the broad road}.”

The Bible tells us Hell is a place of unquenchable fire......unspeakable pain and suffering......unbelievable horror......unsatisfied thirst......and unbearable sorrow.

And those who go to hell will never come out! They will exist in eternal torment forever.

Jesus tells us, unfortunately, this is the final destination of most.
B) The Narrow Way (road) leads to **HEAVEN**.

Heaven is a place where there will be **NO MORE TEARS**......**NO MORE PAIN**......**NO MORE SORROW**....

**NO MORE SICKNESS**......**NO MORE DISEASE**......

**NO MORE DEATH**......**NO MORE NIGHT**......**NO MORE SORROW**......

**NO MORE SICKNESS**......**NO MORE DISEASE**......

**NO MORE DEATH**......**NO MORE NIGHT**......

**AND NO MORE SIN!**

Heaven is a place of **ETERNAL PEACE**......**ETERNAL REST**......**ETERNAL JOY** ....and **ETERNAL HAPPINESS**

that will never end!

In contrast to the masses of people who will wind up in hell as their final destination, there will be few who end up in heaven by comparison.

**CONCLUSION**

This life is but a brief moment in time between eternity past and eternity future. We are reminded of this every single day. Loved ones pass away. Friends pass away. Acquaintances pass away. And one day, you and I will pass away. **NO ONE LIVES HERE FOREVER!**

And where you and I end up for all eternity will be determined by the **CHOICES** we make in this life. You see, we don't get to **CHOOSE** our eternal destination once our life on earth is over.
We must choose now!

Someone once said, “The road to heaven is hard, its difficult, and its challenging. But one hour after we arrive in heaven, we will know it was worth it all!

TWO WAYS..............TWO GATES..............TWO DESTINATIONS........
THE CHOICE IS YOURS!