

THE BROAD AND NARROW WAYS

MATTHEW 7:13-14

Text: Matthew 7:13-14

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¹³Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Introduction:

We all face “***either or***” decisions as we pass through life. There are times when we face a decision that is black or white; one in which there are only two possible choices. Many shrink from those decisive moments, but we must still face them.

It is the same in the spiritual realm. This passage confronts us with some ***choices*** that we will have to make. Jesus lays out three ***choices*** that confront every person who ever lives in this world. These ***choices*** must be made and they are the most important ***choices*** you will make in your life. What you do when you are confronted with these ***choices*** will determine how you will live your life; how you will die; and where you will spend eternity.

No one is going to force you to make a **choice** today. All I am going to ask you to do is to consider these **choices** the Lord mentions. Then I want you to consider your response to these **choices**.

Consider your response in light of your life, in light of eternity and in light of the Word of God.

I want you to see that, while life often appears hard and filled with difficult choices, it really boils down to **Only Two** real **choices**. Let me share those **choices** with you today.

1. ONLY TWO WAYS

Since we are going to leave this world someday soon, and when we do, we will continue to live either in Heaven or Hell forever, it is essential that we know where we will end up.

A. There is a Broad Way

The word broad means "**spacious**."

The idea that Jesus is trying to convey is that the broad way is wide open. In other words, anything goes on the broad way.

You can do anything you like, you can carry all the baggage of your sins; you can live like you want to live;

you can call all the shot and make all the rules! You can be as religious as you like, or as irreligious as you like. You can go to church, pray and read you Bible. You can do as much or as little as you please on the broad way.

It is your life and you get to call the shots. It is an easy way to live, because there is no one to please but self! That is what the broad way is all about.

There are a couple of things you need to know before you decide to live out the rest of your life traveling the broad way.

- You aren't really in control

Ephesians 2:1-3

¹ And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: ³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

- Sin always brings pain and sorrow

Galatians 6:7

⁷ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Proverbs 13:15

¹⁵ Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors *is* hard.

Illustration:

The Jukes family - There has been careful research in to the history of one criminal family known as Jukes, who were known for a long line of waste, prostitution and drunkenness. A total of 1,200 decedents have been traced from this family tree. Some 400 were wrecked physically by their sins; 310 were professional paupers; 130 were convicted criminals; 60 were perpetual thieves and pick pockets; and 7 were murders. Out of the 1,200, only 20 ever learned a trade and 10 of these learned it while in prison! Sin carries a high price tag!

B. There is a Narrow Way

The Broad way is wide open and easy, while the other way road of life is called “**narrow**”. This word refers to a “**grape press**”. It has the idea of being **constricted**. It can also carry the idea of being **distressed and difficult**. The narrow way is the exact opposite of the broad way.

On the narrow way, you can't take all your sins with you. If you try, you will find that there isn't enough room for you and them. When you walk the narrow way, you must choose to give up your rights. You can no longer do as you please, but you must do those things that please the Lord. You cannot make the rules, but you are expected to keep the Lord's rules.

Some people have the mistaken idea that they can live as they please and that the Lord is obligated to smile down on them and just bless them real good. In truth, when you walk the narrow way, you should expect some difficulty.

Notice some facts about living the narrow way.

- It Honors God

1 Peter 1:16

¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

- It Brings God's Blessings and Power

2 Chronicles 7:14

¹⁴ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

- It's a Far Better Life from Every Perspective

Hebrews 11:25

²⁵ Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Galatians 6:8-9

⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. ⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

John 10:10

¹⁰ The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

2. ONLY TWO DESTINATIONS

All roads end somewhere. There a saying that's been around for 2,000 years ago that goes, "**All roads lead to Rome.**" Well, all roads lead somewhere and the same is true with the roads we are considering today. They lead somewhere and since everyone here is on one or the other, we need to find out where we are going!

A. There Is a Place Called Hell

*Hell the prison house of despair,
Here are some things that won't be there;
No flowers will bloom on the banks of Hell,
No beauties of nature we love so well;
No comforts of home, music and song,
No friendship of joy will be found in the throng;
No children to brighten the long weary night;
No love nor peace, nor one ray of light;
No blood-washed soul with face beaming bright,
No loving smile in that region of night;
No mercy, no pity, pardon nor grace,
No water, O God, what a terrible place!
The pangs of the lost no human can tell,
Not one moments ease - there is no rest in Hell!*

*Hell the prison house of despair,
Here are some things that will be there:
Fire and brimstone are there we know,
For God in His Word hath told us so;
Memory, remorse, suffering and pain,
Weeping and wailing, but all in vain;
Blasphemers, swearers, haters of God,
Christ rejecters while here on earth trod;
Murders, gamblers, drunkards and liars
Will have their part in the lake of fire;
The filthy, the vile, the cruel and mean,
What a horrible mob in Hell will there be!
Yes, more than humans on earth can tell,
Are torments and woes of eternal Hell!*

Hell is a place of:

- Weeping

Matthew 8:12

¹² But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 22:13

¹³ Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 24:51

⁵¹ And shall cut him asunder, and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:30

³⁰ And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Wailing

Matthew 13:42

⁴² And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 13:50

⁵⁰ And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Luke 13:28

²⁸ There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you *yourselves* thrust out.

- Gnashing of Teeth

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- Unquenchable Fire

Mark 9:43

⁴³ And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

Luke 16:24

²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

- Memory and Remorse

Luke 16:25

²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

Luke 16:27-28

²⁷ Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldst send him to my father's house: ²⁸ For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

- Unsatisfied Thirst

Luke 16:24-25

²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. ²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

- Unspeakable Pain and Misery

Luke 16:24-26

²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. ²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. ²⁶ And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence.

Revelation 14:10-11

¹⁰ The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they

have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

- Eternal Separation

Revelation 21:8

⁸ But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

2 Thessalonians 1:9

⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

- Undiluted Wrath

Revelation 20:15

¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Hell is real! I could never adequately describe Hell, but if I were to be able to exhaust all the vocabulary of English and paint word pictures that conveyed the truth of that place, my feeble words could never describe the reality of the horror that awaits everyone headed to the land of the damned.

It is a place from which there will never be deliverance.

B. There is a Place Called Heaven

Just as the broad road has its destination, the narrow way does too. This road doesn't end in Hell below; it ends in Heaven above.

Consider these facts about Heaven:

- With God the Father and God the Son

Revelation 21:3

³ And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

Revelation 21:22-23

²² And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. ²³ And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb *is* the light thereof.

Revelation 22:4

⁴ And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads.

- No Tears, Pain, Sorrow, Death

Revelation 21:4

⁴ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

- No Sin

Revelation 21:8

⁸ But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

- No Night

Revelation 21:25

²⁵ And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

- No Curse

Revelation 22:3

³ And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

- Glories beyond Description

1 Corinthians 2:9

⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Close:

What road taking you? Have you thought it over?
Where will you end up when you leave this world? Will
it be Heaven or will it be Hell? Will it be the narrow way
of walking with God or the broad way of anything
goes? Where will you end up?