

THE NARROW WAY

Matthew 7:13-14

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. The Bible says that everyone will live somewhere forever...and the Bible says there are two options ... hell and eternal punishment...or heaven and eternal joy.
- b. Last week we looked at the “broad way” which leads to hell and eternal punishment ...today we look at the “narrow way”...which leads to Heaven.
- c. Both doors claim to lead to Heaven...no religion advertises “join us and go to hell.”

II. THE NARROW GATE- (DIFFICULT WAY; ASSURED DESTINATION)

- a. Jesus says to go to Heaven one must “enter by the narrow gate”...this phrase says four things.
- b. #1, To go to Heaven you must “enter”...you have to do something to go to Heaven...you have to make a decision, a commitment...going to Heaven is not automatic...it does not happen by accident.
- c. To go to Heaven you must obey the gospel...the gospel of Jesus Christ is not just a message to believe...it is a command to obey... *2 Thess. 1:8 “(judgment will come) on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.” ... 1 Peter 4:17 “...what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?”*
- d. The gospel commands that we confess and repent of their sin...believe that Jesus Christ is God’s Son who died on the cross to pay the penalty of our sin and that He arose from the dead...to submit to Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.
- e. #2, The gateway to Heaven is narrow, definite, constrictive, and precise...there are not many ways to Heaven...there is only one way.
- f. The way to Heaven is not a religion, a denomination, a philosophy, or a set of rules...the narrow gate that leads to Heaven is a person...one person in particular and only one person...the Lord Jesus Christ.

- g. *John 14:6 (KJV) "Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father, but by me." ... John 10:9 (NKJV) "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved..." 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." ... 1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV) "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus."*
- h. There is only one way to be saved...there is only one person who is the Savior ... there is only one person who is the Lord... to be saved a person must receive Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.
- i. #3, The gate to salvation is narrow...only one person at a time can enter in ...salvation is not a group experience...people are not saved in groups ... salvation is a personal experience. (turnstile)
- j. To be saved...you have to confess and repent of your sins...you have to believe that Jesus died to pay the penalty for your sins and that He arose again...you have to receive Him as your Savior and Lord.
- k. #4, Because the gate of salvation is narrow it is not easily found...in verse 14, Jesus said there are few who find the door of salvation...and there are even fewer who enter in.
- l. This is not God's fault...He has clearly defined the door of salvation in His Word ... the gospel and the plan of salvation is clear, simple and is being preached and presented around the world every day.
- m. Why then are there are there few who find the gate that leads to salvation?...#1, There are few who are looking for it...multitudes live their lives every day with little thought of their eternal destiny.
- n. #2, Many have accepted false gospels...false religions...and false philosophies which claim to be the way to Heaven.
- o. #3, Many have never heard a clear presentation of the true gospel and the true way to salvation...because today more than ever it's hard to find a true preacher ... it's hard to try to find a church where the true gospel is being preached... and fewer Christians and churches are fulfilling the Great Commission.

- p. #4, Many who do find the door of salvation will not enter in... because they are not willing to humble themselves before God and confess that there are wretched sinners totally separated from Him...they are not willing to accept that they are totally incapable of doing anything to make themselves right with God...and they are not willing to forsake all they are and all they have...and surrender control of their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. (RICH YOUNG RULER; JUDAS ISCARIOT ; CLING TO THEIR LIFE)

III. THE DIFFICULT WAY-

- a. The joys and the blessings of being a follower of Jesus Christ will far outweigh any difficulties we may face in this world...but the Lord Jesus and the Bible make it clear that following Christ in this world will at times be difficult.
- b. *John 15:20 (NKJV) "...If the world persecuted Me, it will also persecute you."...*
2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV) "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."
- c. When the way is difficult remember three things...#1, *Hebrews 13:5-6 (NKJV) "for God Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"...*
#2, The troubles of this world...are nothing compared to the glories of Heaven...
2 Corinthians 4:16-17 (NKJV) "Therefore we do not lose heart...(even in the troubles of this world)...For the light afflictions of this world, which are but for a moment, are working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."...
#3, It will be worth it all when we see Jesus!

IV. THE ASSURED DESTINATION-

- a. Jesus said only the narrow gate and the difficult way lead to "life"...to eternal life and the joys of Heaven...there is no other way.

V. CONCLUSION-

- a. Have you entered in the narrow door of salvation...by receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord?
- b. Two gates...two ways...two destinies...what road are you on?