

Are You Narrow-Minded?

June 22nd & 23rd, 2013

Matthew 7:13-14

Jesus gives a great insight into the entry point into the Kingdom of God and the new way of living for His disciples. Jesus also gives insight into why most people will never choose to follow Him!

- ❖ A “Gate” is both a barrier and a point of entry.
- ❖ A “Way” is a course of conduct or a way of thinking.

The Wide Gate and the Easy Way

- ❖ Many choose the wide and easy!

The Easy Way can be identified by many “Signs”.

- ♦ Cultural Signs

“Whatever” “Let it Be” “To Each His Own” “You Deserve a Break Today” “Just Do It”
“It’s All Good” “Go With the Flow” “Live and Let Live” “Whatever Works for You”

- ♦ Philosophical Signs

“Tolerance” “Diversity” “Relativism” “Pluralism”
“Universalism” “Naturalism”

- ♦ Biblical Signs

Beware of quoting partial verses!

“*Judge not*” *Matthew 7:1*

“*... eat, drink, and be merry ...*” *Ecclesiastes 5:18*

“*... God is Love ...*” *1 John 4:16*

- ❖ Most do not realize that this wide and easy way leads to destruction, here on earth and eternally.

The Narrow Gate and the Hard Way

- ❖ Few find the narrow and hard way!

The Gate to Life, identified by Jesus, is narrow!

John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

- ♦ I Am the Way – only one way to God

- ♦ I Am the Truth – only one truth to live by

John 12:47-50 “... the Word that I have spoken will judge ...”

- ♦ I Am the Life – only one source of healing and reconciliation with God

John 10:7 “So Jesus again said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.’”

- ♦ I Am the Door – only One God and One Mediator, Jesus Christ

1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,”

The Way to Life, identified by Jesus, is hard!

1 John 2:3 “And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.”

1 John 5:2-3 “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

Luke 6:46 “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”

1 Peter 4:1-4

1 Peter 4:12-17

Galatians 5:16-24

❖ Jesus reveals why life is hard for His disciples.

John 15:18-21

❖ For the true Christian, there will be persecution, rejection, hatred, verbal and physical abuse, confrontations, and cultural pressure to compromise.

Two Choices: Upward Bound or Earthly Bound

❖ Moses: *“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying His voice and holding fast to Him, for He is your life...” Deuteronomy 30:19-20*

❖ Jesus: *“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” Matthew 7:13-14*

Endnotes:

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