

Walking with Jesus through the Eyes of Matthew

“You Can’t Have it Both Ways”

Matthew 7:13-14

*God Commands Me in His Word – Love Him with All my Heart, My Soul, My Mind
- and to Love One Another as Myself*

Introduction: There is no balance between a lives for lived for the world and a life lived for Christ!

- A. Here is what I am saying clearly Jesus is saying that there are to separate ways of life.
 1. One is broad and one is narrow and we will look at both but clearly they are not the same!
- And there is no way to balance the two!
- B. There is a great effort on the behalf of man to take man’s philosophies and the belief that there is a God and even a Savior and mix those together and come up with a plan that works out that we can feel good about ourselves and feel good about God and everyone is all good.
 1. That is not Biblical truth!
- C. Man is totally depraved:
 1. That is nothing inherently good about man apart from the grace of God!
 - 23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin. Romans 14:23
 - Whatever is from man’s heart is sin!
 2. Paul writes in
 - Romans 7:18 “I know no good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh.”

- Again there is nothing good about who man is in the flesh no matter how “good” you are!

3. Ephesians 2:1

- **And you were dead in your trespasses and sins.**
- In our deadness we are incapable of doing anything good we are depraved!

4. Romans 3:9-18

- **What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; 10 as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one; 11 There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; 12 All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one.”**
- 13 **“Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving,”**
- “The poison of asps is under their lips”; 14 “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness”; 15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood, 16 Destruction and misery are in their paths, 17 And the path of peace they have not known.” 18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”**

- How are we going to balance the two ways to come to a relationship with a Holy God if that is the mess that we are bringing to the table?

- There are a lot of folks going through the wide gate “and many are those who enter it!

= So if man is totally depraved and he is then God is totally Holy and the two cannot be balanced!

- So there are two distinct ways and you can't have it both ways you can't come to God on your terms and on God's term it truly is God's way or the highway!

- Let's talk about the broad gate!

I. The Broad Gate verse 13

A. First let me make it clear that these two gates do not lead to the same city!

- Right up front this broad gate leads to a city of destruction!

1. Now just because it's the majority does not make it right!

- We as Americans have kind of developed that mentality well if most of us feel a certain way then it must be right. That is simply not true when it comes to how to have a relationship with God and spend eternity with Him.

- As a matter of fact Jesus says most people are going to get it wrong!

- And many are those that who enter in by it!

2. Jesus warns that there false prophets and not just false prophets' but that they false prophets that come in sheep's clothing.

- What does He mean?

- He means that they are going to have a good sounding message.

- He means they are going to be likeable and entertaining

- He means they are going to be believable and say things that people want to hear to make them feel good about themselves and be able to balance their desires of the flesh with a belief in God.

- And these wolves in sheep's clothing will waltz many right through the broad gate to destruction!!! And they won't even see it coming!

- Look what Jesus says to them in verse 21-23 21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 Many will say

to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many [a]miracles?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'

- But I listen to K-Love
 - But I go to small group
 - But I give missions
 - But I feel really emotional when the band is playing at church
 - But when the pastor says something inspirational it makes me feel better
- Nothing wrong with any of these things but the question is do you know Jesus?
= Has you been born again has your life changed or are you just following the "Christian crowd"
- Is Christ your life or just a life style?

B. The broad gate does lead somewhere though!

1. Destruction which literally means ruined when something is ruined it means it can't be fixed.
 - Now when something is broken it can be fixed but when something is ruined then it can never be used for what it was intended to be used for!
 2. Man was created to glorify God, to produce good fruit but a bad tree cannot produce good fruit it simply can't
 - The fruit may appear good on the outside but is good for nothing!
- And every tree that is not a good fruit producer will be cut down and thrown in the fire!

Transition: So there church is the destruction!

1. The two gates are not a contrast of lifestyles but rather eternal life itself.

- The question is are we following the Christian crowd or are we in a relationship with Christ.
- Jesus said many are walking in the broad gate following the Christian crowd and only a few are coming in through the narrow gate.

➤ But Jesus begins this section with a declarative statement “Enter by the narrow Gate”

II. The Narrow Gate verse 13-14

A. Jesus tells us 4 things about the narrow gate:

- **14 For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.** Matthew 7:14

➤ **He tells us that it is small:** The entrance is singular it is 1 there is no room to add anything.

- There is no room to add your grandma or your mom or your best friend or anyone who were devout believers and get though based on their lives.
- It is so small you can't drag your money through the gate with you to give you way through the gate.
- It is so small that you can't bring a single good work that you have done through the gate.

■ The only thing that will fit though the Gate is Jesus!

B. Jesus is the only way to have a true relationship with God, Jesus is the only way that we can come into the Kingdom of God Jesus is the Gate!

1. It is small only in the aspect that it is 1 way!

- **He Tells Us the way is narrow:** A true believer's life has been changed!
 - Listen to what Paul writes to the Corinthians: 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor [f]effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- Once you entered in the kingdom of God through the small gate which is Christ you are not what you used to be if you are you might want to check which gate you came in!
 - Because narrow is the way!
 - Through Christ He has given us life and now we are producing good fruit verse 17 says that every good tree produces good fruit!
- **He tells us it leads to life!**
 - Here the word life means the opposite of destruction or ruin like we mentioned before its means a life filled with purpose our purpose for which we were created!
 - To produce fruit to please God to bring Him glory and enjoy Him!
- Isn't that what Jesus means when He says I am the way the truth and the life!
 - The only way to truly have life is through Christ!
- **It is precious!**
 - Jesus says that not that many are going to find it, most everyone is going just go along with the crowd, just shuffle through that wide open gate of religion and never have a true relationship with Christ!

- Salvation is a precious thing, it was expensive it cost us nothing but it was purchased with a tremendous price!
 - It was bought with the redeeming blood of Christ!!!!
 - Pastor isn't that a little dramatic, isn't that a little old school, be careful you are going to scare somebody! Or make them mad because you are bring into question which gate they came in.
- Well I say I am not, Jesus is!!!!!!

Closing: Let me go ahead and finish before someone does get angry with me, now that's not an apology.

A. Listen We can't have it both ways!

1. We can't claim to be a child of God just by following the Christian crowd then trying to balance that with living in the sin of the world of my choosing as long as I meet the standard of a good person to everyone else.
 - That means you came in the wrong gate and are headed for destruction and can't even see it and you can get upset and say I am not going to listen to him anymore because he makes me question my life that's ok.
2. A true born again believe believer doesn't seek to balance his or her life with the world but is the light of the world, is the salt of earth we stand out we have a precious things eternal life embrace it live life for His glory without shame or guilt proudly proclaim you are a child of the King!