

TWO WAYS

Matt 7,13-14 *“Enter 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: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”*

May the Lord God bless these verses to our hearts.

You have a choice between two ways, and the Lord Jesus in this verse is really saying, there is My way and there is every other way. Every other way but His, in all ages, in all time, in all continents, leads to destruction.

But His way, is the right way, all other ways are wrong. That is what He is saying here. The narrow way is My way He says. Go that way and you will be blessed, be in life, be in the Heavenly Kingdom. Go any other way and you will be destroyed.

That was a chock to His audience, the ancient of those days believed that you could get to God through mediums, through dreams, through inner intuition, much like people believe today. But the Lord Jesus says no, salvation is through Me alone. I am the door, you must come through this narrow door, to salvation, weather you are an Arab, Indian, European, makes no difference. There is only one way and it is through Me. It is not through Me plus my disciples, it is not through Me plus my mother, it is not through Me plus my family, it is through Me alone.

Where does that leave the worlds religions, Islam, Catholicism, Hinduism, Animism, Judaism, Buddhism, Shintoism, Daoism. They are all ism's, they are all the other way. There is but one way and it is only through Him, you can be saved.

And the same is true of the people who knock on your door, trying to sell you Watchtower and all the rest of it. Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons, the mystical cults, the New Age. Line them all up together, they are the other way, the wrong way. Under many guises, many disguises, they all say this is the way. But in John 14:6 Jesus says, I am the way, the truth and the life.

As a preface to these remarks, Matthew who writes this Gospel, he does not just throw this out, there is only one way, take it or leave it. He introduces this man Jesus, who is the only way. And he starts in chapter 1 verse 1 and says I want to tell you of some one who is the son of Abraham and the son of David.

And he gives His genealogy and then he says He is a real man with a real birth and His mother was a virgin.

He is a unique man, a special man, and as we go through the Gospel of Matthew, we listen to His words, such beautiful words, such powerful words. To the crowd they marveled at Him, see John 7:46. They say never man spake like this, this is not a medium, this is not just a rabbi, this is ... somebody extraordinary.

Not only did He speak mighty words, but He did mighty deeds, and He went about doing miracles. And what Matthew does, because he is a publican, that is a tax collector, was to gather them together. What do tax collectors do, they gather money, they are collectors and you will find the word gather in Matthews Gospel, more than in any other Gospel. He is a great gatherer and what he does in chapters 8, 9, 10 and 12 is, he gathers lots of miracles together.

Actually they happened on all different times, you find that out in the other gospels, but in Matthew he gathers them all together. So you get one miracle after each other. This is the Christ, this is the way, this is the man, the wonder working miracle man from Nazareth.

He is the only way to God. And what do they do with this miracle working man, see Matt 12:14. At the end of that collection of miracles they get together and they plot His death.

And they say, it could not be, it could not be that this is Him, He will take away our power, He will take our nation, He will take away our position, we need to get rid of this man, and they rejected Him. They committed an unpardonable sin, and they nailed Him to the tree, and He dies and He is buried out of sight and they rub their hands and they said that got rid of Him.

He is another statistic in the worlds ultimate reality. Death has conquered this miracle working man from Nazareth, we will never see Him again.

And that is the ultimate reality that we all face, death.

And the existentialist will tell us, there is no meaning to life, and Dawkins will tell us, you got to face up to it, it does not mean anything. You just die, and thats it, you are a candle lit in the dark and blown out again. And a few years from now it will be as if you never were. The ultimate reality is death, is it?

Three days after this miracle working man from Nazareth died, an angel made an announcement, see Matt 28:6 ... the greatest news this world has ever heard, came from a graveyard. "He is not here, He is risen, as he said". Behold the message of the resurrection ... but, what is the message of the resurrection?

There is only one way to the Heavenly Kingdom, what's the connection between the resurrection and Jesus being the only way to the Heavenly Kingdom? Because only He rose from the dead. Can you see the difference between Jesus and Muhammad, and Buddha and John Lennon, and all the rest of them. They lie in their grave, awaiting His voice.

And He the risen Son of God, comes out to the world and He says, I am the way, truth and life, no one comes unto the father except by Me, exclusively. And we telling you, this book, the Christian Scriptures, is the only book that is the word of God, and Jesus is the only one who is the unique Son of God.

And those are non-negotiable truths that will stand for eternity. The Lord Jesus says, neither is there salvation in any other and in Acts 4:12 Peter said of

Him ... there is none other name given under heaven, among men, whereby we must be saved. In 1 Tim 2:5 Paul says ... there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. And what is your reaction to that.

You may be bored, you may be scared, you may be fascinated, you may be confused, you may be interested, but ultimately what you feel and think makes no difference to the fact, that He rose from the dead.

The world is round whether I believe it or not. I can live and die, thinking that the world is flat, that does not make it flat. Facts are stubborn things and the message about the good news is a fact. It is true whether you believe it or not.

Isn't that a good reason to get saved? ... That this message is true. You know people have a number of reasons why they want to be saved. I think one of the primary reasons why anybody should be saved is, this message about salvation is true. This message about a redeemer is true. It is the truth.

We live in a world of lies and deception, unbelievable deception. Check the best sellers on the New York Times list. It is all about deception. How you can realize your potential, how you can climb the ladder of success, how you can discover the real you that is inside.

My dear friend, it is not about discovering what is inside you, it is in discovering the Christ. The redeemer, the living Saviour. You look in here, truly you only see sin and corruption and that which calls out for a redeemer.

And if this message is true, you can not pass by it and ignore it.

If this message about the good news is true, if Matthew 7:13-14 is true. Jesus is your judge, Jesus is the Christ, Jesus is your Lord. And if you want it, He can be your Saviour.

And so if it is true, start on that little narrow road now. If it is not true carry on with the herd down the broad road.

For there are two roads, and the broad road is very broad, you will find every opinion and every ideology represented on that road. ... The broad road is full of excitement, it teems with activity. Nearly all the worlds musicians and authors and artists, and composers are on the broad road. It is a very cultured road.

Nearly all the worlds millionaires, the wealthy, the tycoons, the stockbrokers, they are on that road. Nearly all of Hollywood, and TV, the media, the fashion world, the politicians, nearly all of them they are on that road.

Nearly all the professional sportsmen and women, nearly all the worlds entertainers and comedians they are on that road.

Terrific people, beautiful people, talented people, grand people. The aristocracy are on that road, by their thousands, people with personality, people with wit, people with style, people with gifts of leaderships. Lutherans,

Anglicans, Presbyterians, Pentecostals, Baptists, Roman Catholics and many that have come and gone from these meetings are on that road.

And there are plenty of sinners on that road. You come to Romans chapter 1 and Paul goes through a list. The unrighteous, fornicators, the wicked, the covetous, the malicious; they are on that road.

The envious, the murder, the argumentative, the deceivers, the spiteful; they are on that road. ... The gossip merchants, the Backbiters, the haters of God, the proud, they are on that road. ... The boasters, the inventors of evil things and listen children ... the disobedient to parents, they are on that road.

One verse says, the undiscerning, the untrustworthy, the unloving, the unforgiving, the unmerciful, they are on that road. The mocker, the joyrider, the tax cheat, those who never pray, those who despise their Bible, those who love movies and sport and computer games, but have no enthusiasm for spiritual things, they are on that road.

Those who dabble in the occult, in yoga, in visualization, the glutton, the drunkard, the smoker, the gambler, they are on that road. Its a broad road, its a big road, its a wide road. There is only one group that is not on that road.

Those who are saved. I'm not on that road, there was a time in my life when I came through this narrow gate. You say, "why does the Lord keep using this word 'narrow'?", He says its a narrow gate, its a narrow road, well read the context in chapter 5, 6 and 7.

He says among other things, in chapter 5 verse 8, that does who are on the narrow road, are "pure in heart". Are you on the narrow road? Is that your character as a Christian?

Those who are on the narrow road, their lifestyle makes them be persecuted.

Those who are on the narrow road view anger as seriously as murder. Those who are on the narrow road view lust as seriously as adultery. Those who are on the narrow road, their word can be relied on, they love their enemies, they pray in secret, they forgive those who sin against them. They serve one master. They seek first the kingdom of God. Thats why its a narrow road. Because of that stringent moral ethic, that the Lord laid out, and said thats my disciples.

You say do I get on that road by doing those things? No, you get on that road by being born again. And once you are born again, those things follow.

You see it is a narrow door and then it is a narrow way. ... Salvation that lets you get through the narrow door and then let you live as you like isn't salvation. It is a narrow door and its a restricted way, thats the Greek word, its restricted, its a road of discipleship.

Its a big thing to claim, ... to be on that road.

And they took the Lord Jesus, the narrow way, the narrow door, they said, we

don't have any time for this narrow way, all this moral ethic, connected with a Kingdom, we have no time for the King or His Kingdom and they took Him to Calvary and they nailed Him to the tree.

The loveliest man that ever lived, the best man that ever lived, hangs in darkness on Calvary cross, the sky is black, the birds refuses to sing, whats happening?

Our blessed Saviour is bleeding and hanging and dying for me, and for ever sinner who ever lived. What a blessed Saviour He is. Lifted up, was He, to die. It is finished was His cry, now in Heaven exulted High, Hallelujah, what a Saviour.

What do you think of these two verses here?

Enter in at the straight or narrow gate. ... Would I be right to say, that you cannot just nod at those words, and go on living as you have been living? ... You can't just nod at the Bible and say yea I agree with it and go on as you always been living.

You really have two choices, you either carry on on the broad road or you stop, and bow the knee to Christ, take Him as Lord and Saviour, rest on His finished work. Know what it is to be saved and enter through that door and walk and walk and walk one step at a time on that narrow road, till you land up in glory.

But not only are there two roads, and two doors and two choices, there are two destinations. Every road lead somewhere and the broad road leads to destruction. Let us make no mistake about it, thats where the world is going tonight, faster and faster and faster to judgment. Are you with them? Are you with the maddening crowd?

Vanity fair, was it Bunyan that described it as the bonfire of the vanities. What a description, a bonfire of the vanities. And when God now looks at that broad road, does He see style and wit and personality? Does he see the crowd cheering and the Oscars being given out?

He sees it, ... like a man covered in sores. He sees it like a pack of mad rabid dogs and over that broad road blows the smoke of a bottomless pit. As man blinded to their sin and need, and blinded to Calvary, march ever onward to a furnace of fire. Satan egging them on, driving them on, and 102 a minute falls over the edge to an unquenchable fire.

And two roads before you lie, the narrow road and the broad road, two roads before you lie, each one a choice must make. One to the Heavenly Kingdom, the other to a burning lake. Will any choose the path of woe; Each one must answer, "yes!" or "no!"

You know when a person get saved, it is as if, Satan lost one more. In 1 John 5:19 the Bible says, that the whole world lie in the lap of Satan. Like a mother caressing a Child to sleep, Satan is hoping that you will never wake up, that you will party until you drop, that you will watch til you drop, that you will be distracted until you drop. Until bam ... eternity, to late.

Thats what will happen to you one day.

Satan rocks the world to sleep. Don't believe that gospel ... That narrow way is terrible, its oppressive, you don't want to go for that religious stuff. You will be downtrodden, you wont be able to express yourself. And he keeps people bound in sin, what an evil taskmaster he is. But every time someone gets saved, there is a shout in Heaven ... There is a glory chorus in Heaven, one more person, ... snatched from Satan's power.

In Isaiah 49:24 the Bible ask the question ... shall the prey be snatched from the mighty?

The Lord Jesus comes in to the situation of a poor sinner who believes in Him and delivers him. You know, when you get saved, there is a deliverance that takes place, see Col 1:13. You can't really see it, but it happens, ... You are taken from the kingdom of Satan and you are translated into the kingdom of His dear Son. What a wonderful thing that is. You don't belong here anymore. Your headquarter is in Heaven, see Heb 11:10 and you long for a city who's builder and maker is God.

And your allegiance is changed, and you become an ambassador for another Country. Has that ever happened to you? ... Have you ever been saved? ... have you ever got of the broad road? I plead with you my friend, get of the broad road now, and get through that narrow gate, trust the Saviour.

Don't leave it another day, another Good News Meeting is finishing, trust in the Saviour. Don't risk going to the lake of fire, by putting it off another day. Come now, oh come sinner, come, why do you delay? The pressing invitation is, that you should come today. Tomorrow has no promise it can give to you, tomorrow is eternity just hidden from your view. May the Lord bless you with His word and may you be saved today.

Based on a message by Michael J. Penfold.

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