

Study of Matthew

January 22, 2022

Discussion Question: Which road is leading, directing, guiding your life? How is life on that road?

Matthew 7:13 – 14

Jesus is ending this sermon (Sermon on the Mount). HE now moves to decision time and people shy away from this part of the sermon.

Do you really want to follow Jesus?

Following Jesus is freedom! Yes, it is true freedom, but it is also demanding.

Over and over, throughout scripture, Jesus sets before us a truth and then ask us to choose. This is HIS nature:

- In the garden...choose different trees
- Obey Commands ... choose between life and death

Let's look at what Jesus tells us to choose between:

1. Two Gates / Decisions

A strait/narrow gate or a wide gate

Nothing needs to be given up or abandoned if you want to go through the wide gate.

But the narrow gate has demands:

Matthew 16:22-26 "Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. 23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. 24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" [KJV]

But on a positive side there are things that get knocked off at the narrow gate

"HE paid a debt HE did not owe, I owed a debt I could not pay, I needed someone to wash my sins away; and now I sing a brand new song amazing grace; Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay."

Walk through the narrow gate and enjoy freedom in Christ!

2. Two Roads / Directions

Wide and easy or narrow and hard

When it says way it implies not only a road, but a manner of life; a manner of lifestyle; it denotes a course of conduct, a way of thinking, feeling and deciding; way of behavior

The behavior on the narrow and broad ways are very different

The narrow road demands discipline. The very word disciple means a learner, a pupil and that denotes discipline...you can't learn without discipline.

In an undisciplined church age license and freedom to do whatever you want that has replaced liberty in Christ that demands following God's commands, disciplined discipleship is not seen as glamorous.

Discipleship demands discipline

Luke 14:27 *"And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."* [KJV]

Walk the narrow road...it's the best road

3. Two Groups / Different Associates

Few or many

On the broad and narrow way there are different companions; different people to partner with. One group will assist you in enjoying the way to hell. The other will do what they can to assist you in your disciplined walk.

The greatest difference is that Jesus is walking the narrow road.

Walk with the right companions for life's journey!

4. Two Places / Destinations

Life or destruction

Make no mistake, both roads lead somewhere.

You get to choose which gate, which road, which companions but the destination is already settled.

Note something about both roads; they will do the leading...they will direct you, they will counsel you in that direction.

The broad road leads to destruction and the narrow road leads to life