**Matthew 7:13-14: Narrow or Broad Path**

Introduction

Read Matthew 7:13-14

This picture of the path is not random in the context or in the Bible. Lord willing tonight we will discuss the theme of paths in the Bible so you have to come back for part 2 of this lesson tonight.

***2 Choices***

A. Wide gate which leads to destruction

B. Narrow gate which leads to life

A. Broad Gate: Many enter

B. Narrow Gate: Few ***find***

We all want to go to heaven and all think that we have entered through the narrow gate.

**1. Must be SEEKING the narrow path**

There is no stumbling into this path by accident. You don’t just wake up one day and all the sudden you are walking the path of righteousness. We have all heard of those stories where someone moves up in a company and gets a better job then they dreamed of or were not technically qualified for when they first got it. Or they were at the right place at the right time! I think those stories are neat and are a tribute to hard work and God taking care of people, but that is not the way it will work out for you with walking the narrow path.

If you are walking the narrow path it is because you want to be on it! You are not accidently righteous and you don’t fall backwards into being faithful to God’s command! You have to be seeking after God!

* Matthew 6:24
* Matthew 6:33
* Matthew 7:7-8

When you look at the OT characters that we hold up as examples they are held up because they made the effort and the choice to follow God! Abraham makes the choice to believe the promises of God no matter how impossible that they seem and it is credited to him as righteousness (Gen. 15:6).

If we show up to church, then we think that we have entered through the narrow gate. Am I seeking God’s kingdom and God?

Notice with the broad path there is no seeking that is required you can easily access it.

**2. Different STANDARD on narrow path**

Often times we examine ourselves via the nightly news or the horrific sins of other people. We say to ourselves that look at all those people out committing crimes and living immorally we are better than they are! We look at the world and criticize the world and society because of the lack of morals and the degrading values that are or are not being taught. We shake our head at society as if we are not living in it or among it. It is everyone else who is not seeking God like they should.

We draw a line of where the world is and we tend to stay right above it and think that we are in good shape. We are walking on that narrow path.

Part of Jesus point in the Sermon on the Mount is to give us a different standard to live by. Over and over again he will repeat “you have heard it said…but I say to you” (5:21-22, 27-28, 31-32, 33-34, 38-39, 43-45).

* Matthew 5:46-48: World is not our standard of love
* Matthew 7:21-23: Not enough to be religious, God holds us to a different standard

**3. Narrow path is a path of SOLITUDE**

At the end of verse 13 we read that there are many who are on the wide path, but at the end of verse 14 we read there are few who find the narrow way. If we are going to walk the narrow way it is not going to be the most popular with crowds cheering your names. If you are going to walk this path then it is a path of loneliness and solitude.

Song #280: “I have decided to follow Jesus”

2nd Verse: “Tho’ none go with me I still will follow… No turning back”

* Matthew 5:10-12

If you tread that path alone will you still go? Jesus went to the cross alone (except for the Father; Jn. 16:32). He will not leave us but others will.

* Mt. 28:20
* 2 Tim 4:16-17

REMINDS US THAT THERE IS WORK TO DO TO BRING PEOPLE AWAY FROM THAT BROAD WAY WHICH LEADS TO DESTRUCTION!