



A just weight  
and balance



are the  
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Matthew 7:13

*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:*

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

- The biggest question that will ever be answered is the question,  
**“Which way to heaven?”**
- **The most important decision** that anybody will ever make is the decision that they make regarding their **eternal destiny.**

- Life here, says the Bible,  
**is a vapor**  
that appears for a little  
time and vanishes away.

- It is like steam off  
**a cup of coffee,**  
nothing more,  
compared to eternity.

- Everyone will end up in heaven or hell .
  - So our choice is absolutely critical.
    - There are two options,  
what will yours be?

- Every person stands at a crossroad.

- Some of life's decisions are trivial

and

some are critical.

- It has always been the function of the ministers of God, to confront people with that most critical of all decisions.

- It was Moses who said to the people,
  - *“See, I have set before you this day life and death, good and evil. Choose life that you and your seed may live,”*
- Deuteronomy chapter 30.<sup>8</sup>

- It was Joshua who said,
- “Choose you this day  
*whom you will serve,*  
*whether the gods which*  
*your fathers served, but as*  
*for me and my house,*  
*we will serve the Lord.”*

- It was Jeremiah who heard God say to him in Jeremiah chapter 21,
- ***“Unto this people shall you say, ‘Thus says the Lord, behold I have set before you the way of life and the way of death.”***

- It was **Elijah**, the great prophet, who called for a decision when he said,
- **“How long will you halt between two opinions?”**  
***If the Lord be God, follow Him.***
  - ***If Baal, then follow him,***”
  - 1 Kings 18.

- From the lips of Jesus we hear many times the call to come to Him, to acknowledge Him as ***the Way, the Truth and the Life.***  
(John 14:6)

- On one occasion recorded in  
John 6:53

*Then Jesus said unto them,...  
Except ye eat the flesh of the  
Son of man, and drink his blood,  
ye have no life in you.*

- 6:54 *Whoso eateth my flesh,  
and drinketh my blood,  
hath eternal life; and I will raise  
him up at the last day.*

- **The result was...**

- *“That many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.*
- *And Jesus therefore said to the Twelve, ‘You do not want to go away also, do you?’*
- *But Simon Peter answered, ‘And, Lord, to whom shall we go?*
- *You have words of eternal life and we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.’*

- And Jesus said,
- ***‘Did I Myself not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.’***
- Even in the shadow of Christ,  
**one chose to reject salvation.**
  - Jesus always  
**calls for a choice.**

- **John Oxenham wrote:**
- **"To every man there openeth**
- **A way and ways and a way;**
- **And the high soul treads  
the high way,**
- **And the low soul gropes the low;**
- **And in between  
on the misty flats**
- **The rest drift to and fro;**

- In Matthew chapter 7, the Lord gives an invitation:
  - Two doors,
  - Two ways,
  - Two destinations.
- Jesus is issuing an ultimatum, it is make up your mind time on the mountain.

- The Sermon on the Mount **demands a choice.**

- A choice that leads to a **fixed forever**  
**in eternity.**

- **Jesus explains:**
- No matter how they fast,
- Or how they pray,
- Or how they give alms,
- Or how they give lip service to the Law,
- They fall short of what God requires.

- Their **fasting** is superficial,
- Their **prayer** is superficial,
- Their **giving** is superficial and
- Their **obedience** is superficial.
- It is a religion by which they are **attempting to earn heaven.**
- **Jesus confronts false religion**  
and then confronts them  
with a choice.

- You want to come to heaven,  
**Jesus asks?**
  - There are  
**two doors:**
    - **one goes there**  
and  
**one does not.**
    - And the choice  
**is absolute.**

- There's only one possibility.
- And there are only two choices,  
not many,  
just two.

- Somebody might assume that with all the religions in the world and all the would be spirituality there would be literally millions of doors leading to heaven.
  - But, in fact, there is only one but two choices.

- There is a narrow way with a narrow gate.

- And a broad way with a broad gate.

- **Jesus is contrasting:**
  - Religion that is **false**
  - Religion that is **true**,
- Between worship that is **false**
  - and worship that is **true**,
- **Between divine religion**
  - and **man-made** religion.

- And the religion that existed among the Jews at the time is not acceptable to God.

- The pinnacle indictment comes in Matthew 5:20 when Jesus says,
  - ***“For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the Kingdom of heaven.”***

- What kind of righteousness could surpass the scribes and the Pharisees?
- They were the most fastidious,
  - the most self-righteous,
- the most superficially committed,
  - the most outwardly obedient,
- Paul was one of them and he said of his life as a Pharisee that according to the Law he was found blameless.

- They had been able to muster up enough religion to convince themselves they were righteous.
  - And Jesus says that's not enough?

- It's not a contrast between righteousness and unrighteousness,
- It's a contrast between
- A righteousness that does not satisfy God,
- And a righteousness that does.

- And the religion of the Pharisees can be summed up in Luke 18:9,

- “***The Pharisees trusted in themselves that they were righteous.***”

- How many today are assuming their righteousness satisfies God?

- That's the choice,  
it's that simple.
  - There are  
many religious choices  
in today's world.
- Have you made the right choice?
  - It really doesn't matter  
which of the religious labels  
you pick.
  - Only the right one  
will get you to heaven!

- In reality there are only two religions in the world.

- False religion.

- True religion.

- “Proverbs 14:12

*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

- Religion is packaged in many different forms...
- if you believe in God,
- attend some religious services,
- Perform some religious acts.
- This religion comes in many names and many forms  
but it is all the same.
- It is all the wrong choice.
- It is all Satan, just packaged differently.

• Are

you

listening?

- There is a **narrow way** that leads to **life**,
- And then there's **the broad way** with all the other religions that leads to **death**.
- Our Lord lays before us a **clear** and **obvious** choice:

• Two gates,  
the wide and the narrow;

• Two ways,  
the broad and the narrow;

• Two destinations,  
heaven and hell.

• Two groups,  
the many and the few.

- And we learn in

**Matthew 7:15**

there are

- **Two kinds trees,**
  - **good** and **evil**;
- **Two kinds of fruit,**
  - **good** and **bad**.

- And there are
- Two kind of builders,
- one wise, one foolish;
- Two foundations,
- one rock, one sand;
- two houses  
and
- two storm.

- Jesus cannot be more clear than that.
- Jesus is just comparing the two options that exist.
  - Either you are going to heaven
  - Or you are NOT.

- Both gates point to  
the Kingdom of God, to  
salvation, to eternal joy  
and bliss in heaven.
- But sadly one is  
only an illusion.

- Nobody is selling hell.
- No religion says,  
“*Join our religion  
and go to hell with us.*”
- Nobody says that.
- They all say heaven.
- That's the deception.
  - One is TRUTH  
and  
One is FALSE.

• John 4:23

*But the hour cometh,  
and now is, when the  
true worshippers  
shall worship the Father  
in spirit and in truth: for  
the Father seeketh such  
to worship him.*

- Jesus speaks of two gates so how narrow is this gate?

- That is our question?

- It is so narrow that

only a few will

FIND it!

- **Verse 13**

begins with a command,  
**{aorist imperative in the Greek}**.

- **“Enter by the narrow gate.”**

- We can draw  
**some conclusions**  
out of this  
very simple statement.

- Number one, you **must** enter.
- This is an **imperative**.
- It's not going to happen by **accident**.
- It is an absolute command given by Jesus Christ, “**Enter the narrow gate**.”

- The gospel itself is a command,  
believe,  
repent,  
and be  
baptized.

- The gospel  
always comes as  
a command to be  
obeyed  
or  
disobeyed.

- **It is not enough**  
to listen to preaching  
about the narrow gate.

- **It is not enough**  
to study the narrow gate,

- **It is not enough**  
To admire the wisdom  
it presents.

- Many admire  
the work of Christ  
on the cross
- They admire His conquering death and His resurrection,
- They admire the ethics of Jesus
- They admire the virtues of Jesus.
- But hell is going to be literally filled with people who admired Jesus,

- There are many who admire the Sermon on the Mount.

- But remember that a gate serves two purposes.

- It lets in and it shuts out.

• Jesus says,

“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no man comes to the Father but by Me.”

• Jesus says,

“I am the Door, if any man tries to come in any other way, he is a thief and a robber.”

- In **Acts 4:12** it says,  
“***There is no salvation  
in any other name, for there's no other  
name under heaven given among men  
whereby we must be saved.***”

- There's only **one way** to be saved,
  - there's only one **Savior**,
  - There is only one **faith**,
  - There is only one **baptism**,
  - there is only one **church**.
- **Ephesians 4:4-5**

- Listen to 1 Timothy 2:5,
  - ***“There is one God, one Mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”***
  - **No** other Mediator,
  - **No** other Savior,
  - **No** other Way.

- Romans 10:17 (KJV)
- ***So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.***
- Christ and Christ alone is the gate.
- No Christ, no salvation.
- No Christ, no heaven.
- In that sense it is very narrow.<sup>55</sup>

- When people say,  
“You're very narrow-minded,”  
I will reply, I am narrow minded and  
broad minded at the same time.”
  - “As narrow as Jesus  
and as broad as Jesus.”
- I'm only narrow because it's the truth.
  - I didn't invent this.
  - Men didn't invent this.
- This is the Word of the living God

- All other ways though marked heaven end up in hell.
- Any deviation from..
- The person of Jesus Christ
- The work of Jesus Christ,
- The gospel of Jesus Christ
- will lead you to hell.

- You **must** enter.
- You **must** make a commitment to come to Christ and this is the only way.
- God has the right to do it **the way He wants**
- And this is the way **He chose to do it.**

- It's amazing to me today how popular it is to assume that there are all kinds of different ways to heaven.
  - Even among evangelical preachers.
  - But, Jesus is saying the gate is not that wide .

- There are some people who think that if you join a religion, you'll go to heaven with the crowd.
  - This is a very narrow gate.
- This is like a turnstile, admitting only one person at a time.
  - Acts 2:47

*And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

- It is intensely personal.
- It is not a group experience.
- It doesn't happen to everybody who joins a church,
- or everybody who is baptized,
- or everybody who is in a family of quote/unquote Christians.
- It isn't something you inherit from your parents or your grandparents.
  - It isn't something for which you sign a pledge card.

- It requires a break from the crowd.
  - Jesus said,  
*if you're not willing to hate your father,  
your mother, your sister, your brother,  
your wife, you're not worthy  
to be My disciple.*
- It may cost you every single relationship that you have.
- You come absolutely alone with no one else...it is that personal.
  - You don't go through in a group,  
you go through all alone.

- Jesus says in **Matthew 10:34,**

- ***Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth, I didn't come to bring peace but a sword...***

- And finally  
the death blow.

- That's why we read at the end  
of verse 14,

*“Few are those who find it.”*

- And when you find it, it  
becomes hard to enter.

- Hard to enter  
because of the cost.

- It must be searched out.  
It must be found.
- That's why our Lord immediately says  
in verse 15,  
**“Beware of the false prophets.”**
  - **They're selling tickets**  
to the broad road.
  - **They're the ravenous wolves**  
who dress up as if they were shepherds  
or prophets who wore wool cloaks.
    - **Beware of them.**

- It's hard to find the true gospel.
- But it is there!
- Have you tried to find it?
- It's not easy to take up your cross and follow Christ.
  - It may mean giving up your church, your preacher, your way.

- It's not easy to abandon everything.

- It's hard to humble yourself.

- It's hard to repent  
because of  
sin and pride and self-will

• In Luke 13:24  
is a stunning statement.

• “*Strive to enter  
by the narrow door,  
agonize, for many, I tell  
you, will seek to enter  
and will not be able.*”

- Amazing!
- You mean there are people who want to be saved and they can't be?
- Who want to find the door and enter the door and they don't succeed?
- That's exactly what Jesus said.

- And here's a warning.

- Matthew 25:10

*And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.*

- 25:11 *Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.*

- 25:12 *But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.*

- We learn in Luke 12:1 that the crowds were so great following Jesus that they stumbled over each other.

- Now what does Jesus tell these people?

- Luke 14:26

*If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.*

- But what does the modern day evangelist tell the crowd?
- “***Lord, Jesus come into my heart.***”
  - Why didn't Peter say that on Pentecost?
- Why didn't Ananias say that to Saul in Acts 20?
  - Modern day preachers have watered down God's plan of salvation.

- They say,
  - “Don't worry about your theology.”
  - There is a carelessness and a shoddiness and a flippant attitude that exists within many people's understanding of the gospel.
- Luke 13:22 *And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.*
- 13:23 *Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,*
- 13:24 Strive *to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.*

- Jesus says in Matthew 11:12,  
“*The Kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force.*”
- You're in a battle to save your soul.
- Becoming a Christian is not easy. It's hard.
- The Kingdom of God opens up to those who seek it with all their hearts.
- It's not based on Grandmaw,  
or Mom or Dad!
- It's based on the Gospel.  
Romans 1:16

- Have you obeyed the words of Ananias to Saul of Tarsus?

- Acts 22:16

*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*

- *Have you entered the narrow way?*

**Doors of the church  
are open.**

**Spirit & Bride Say**

**“Come”**

**Revelation 22:17**

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