

Not Every One
(Part Three)

To set the context for Matthew chapter 7 and verses 21-23, let's look at verse 13 and 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."

The command is in verse 13: "Enter ye in at the strait gate." Every biblical call to the gospel is a command. Repent is a command. Repent is not an invitation, but a command. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ is a command it is not an invitation. These are all imperatives, commands, mandates that call for obedience or disobedience, compliance or rebellion. At the conclusion of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He gave no invitation, but He did give a command. The gospel call is an imperative – a command.

It is obvious that the text teaches there are only two ways – the right way and the wrong way. In verses 13 and 14 there are two gates, wide and narrow. There are two ways, broad and narrow. There are two destinies, life and destruction. There are two crowds, many and few. In verses 15-20 there are two trees, good and corrupt, two fruits, good and bad. In verses 21-27 there are two behaviors, the sayers and the doers, two builders, the wise and the foolish, two foundations, rock and sand, two houses, one stood and the other fell.

The text makes it obvious that Jesus taught there are only two choices that people have. You either choose the narrow gate or the broad way. There is only two. One however, is the path to heaven and the other, though marked heaven, is the direct path to hell.

One writer said, "Both roads are religious. I say again, this is not religion and non-religion. This is not Christianity and non-Christianity. This is the true Christianity and then the other form of Christianity as well as any other form of religion. Both roads are religious. Listen. Both promise God. Both promise heaven. Nobody is selling hell. Nobody. Everybody sells heaven. But the broad road, though marked heaven, is a straight line to hell."

Now Jesus said in verse 13, "Enter ye in at the strait gate." This is the first thing that must be done. You must enter. Enter is in the imperative form. This means that it is a command; it is a call for an immediate response. It is a command without an alternative. It is a command that must be obeyed and if not obeyed, it is then an act of defiance against the will of God. It is a consummate, final act of disobedience.

Hell is full of people who admire the Sermon on the Mount. Hell is full of people who misinterpret the Sermon on the Mount; they see the sermon as some kind of ethical code or standard to live by. They do not see, nor do they understand, that at the end of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus is calling men to salvation. Jesus gave a command to enter, and not to enter is disobedience. And all who refuse to enter will face the judgment of God.

The second thing that we see in verse 13 is that you must enter “at the strait gate.” The word “strait” means “narrow.” Enter by the narrow gate. In other words, there is no other way in. It is this gate and this gate alone. Jesus said, “I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture” (John 10:9). He also said in John 8:12, “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” He said in John chapter 14 and verse 6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” I am the way. I am the truth. I am the life. These are the words of Jesus, and there’s no salvation in any other than Christ. He alone is the way. It is only when you put your hope in Christ, only when you listen to the message of truth (the gospel of your salvation) and believe that gospel that you are saved and sealed unto eternal life. Faith comes by hearing the message about Jesus Christ. Salvation comes by confessing Jesus as Lord. There is no other way. There is no other gate. There is no other sacrifice for sin. You must enter the narrow gate. It is a command, and to disobey this command is to suffer the punishment of eternal judgment – eternal hell.

Scripture: Matthew 7:21-23

Jerry W. Arnold
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