

“The Gate and The Way”

Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter through the narrow gate: for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

Introduction: Just like our VBS theme challenged us to choose between 2 kingdoms, Jesus ends his famous “Sermon on the Mount” by presenting opposing choices in life. He describes 2 gates and 2 ways. Contrary to the modern ethics of relative morality, there is a right and a wrong. All roads do not lead to heaven. There is only one gate and one way that leads to eternal life.

1. “the gate” and “the way”

- a. In ancient times, walking was synonymous with living life, so “the way” or “path” symbolized how to live life, and “the gate” or “door” symbolized that which keeps things in and out, or guards, or sets you on a given path. There is always an ethical connotation in the Bible when using “the way” or “the gate” in this figurative sense.
- b. Genesis 3:24 “The cherubim guarded **the way** to the tree of life.”

2. The wide gate and broad way to destruction

- a. Genesis 6:12
- b. Exodus 32:8
- c. Proverbs 12:15
- d. Proverbs 14:12
- e. Psalm 1:6

3. The small gate and narrow way to life

- a. Deut. 5:33
- b. Deut. 8:2
- c. Deut. 10:12
- d. Joshua 1:8
- e. 2 Samuel 22:31
- f. Proverbs 4:11
- g. Psalm 86:11
- h. Isaiah 55:8-9
- i. Malachi 1:10; 2:7-8

4. THE Gate and THE Way

- a. Isaiah 40:3
- b. Matthew 3:3
- c. Isaiah 62:10
- d. 2 Chronicles 5:6-8; 6:13; 26-27; 30-31; 41-42
- e. John 5:2
- f. John 10:7-9
- g. John 14:4-9
- h. Acts 9:1-2
- i. John 20:12
- j. Ephesians 2:1-10

Conclusion: The Gate and The Way to eternal life is not only determined by God, but Jesus is The Gate and The Way. God is angry with those who are going the wrong way. But God is even more angry with those who think they can make their own way to heaven, bypassing God's mercy and grace