

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

SoM, Part 23: Warnings, Part 1

From Ch 5:20 to Ch 7:12, Jesus has taught the Greater Righteousness than the scribes and the Pharisees that is needed to enter into the kingdom of heaven

The Spirit of the Law governing our relationships with each other (Ch 5)

- Murder
- Adultery
- Divorce
- Our word
- Vengeance
- Love

The Spirit of the Law governing our relationships with God (Ch 6)

- Mercy toward others
- Prayer
- Forgiveness of others
- Fasting
- Money
- Worry

Exhortations (Ch 7)

- Judging others
- Ask, seek, knock (the Holy Spirit)
- The Golden Rule

Now, to conclude the SoM, Jesus issues 3 Warnings for those who seek to be citizens of the kingdom of heaven

This time...Warning #1

This is a warning to

- The Church
- this Church
- each of us

v13-14 wide...broad...strait...narrow:

Warning #1: Enter into the kingdom of heaven at the strait gate

Road way to heaven options:

1. Wrong Way

- Road conditions
 - wide
 - broad
 - smooth
- Access:
 - easy
 - convenient
 - natural
- The righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees...letter of Law
 - Religion – righteousness/salvation by works
 - Tradition – ways of man added to Word of God, making the Word of God of none effect (cancelling out, nullifying Is 55:8-11)
 - Philosophy – worldview based on human reasoning
- The way of the world
 - Autobahn, the USA interstate system
 - The Kings Highway...Damascus to Red Sea [map]
 - “high road”
 - merchants
 - religious pilgrims
 - conquerors...commerce, religion, proud “Phil 3:3 winners”
 - The Via Maris...Egypt to Babylon [map]
 - “low road”
 - commerce (money/mammon)
 - armies (war)
 - Way of the Sea
 - Is 57:20
- Frank Sinatra’s way
 - My way...Judges 25:21, not God’s way
 - outrightly reject Jesus Christ as only Lord and Savior
 - inwardly reject Jesus Christ as Lord – claim to be Christian but James 1:22...come to church and hear but to not change, do not “take it to heart”

- Traffic:
 - heavy
 - many/most
 - due to conditions and access,
 - “going with the flow”
 - on mindless auto-pilot, surfing Social Media
 - fast and furiously competitive
- Destination:
 - destruction
 - perdition
 - eternal death and eternal torment

2. Right Way

- Road conditions
 - strait (narrow)
 - narrow (characterized by trials, tribulation, trouble)
 - rocky and bumpy
 - hairpin curves
 - steep inclines and declines
 - at times very treacherous
- Access:
 - inconvenient
 - unnatural
 - “Broken and Humbled Only”
 - must ask/seek/knock to find it
 - must count the cost before entering
 - Matt 10:32-39
- The Greater Righteousness of Jesus Christ...Spirit of Law
 - Matt 5:20 – 7:12
- The Way of God
 - The Way of the Cross
 - offensive and foolish to unregenerate man
 - power of God for regenerate man
 - 1 Cor 1:17-24
 - 1 Cor 2:1-5
 - Heb 2:9, 14-17

- The Romans Road
 - Rom 3:10-12, 23
 - Rom 6:23 with Eph 2:8-9
 - Rom 5:8
 - Rom 10:9-13
 - Rom 5:1
 - Rom 8:1, 31-39
- The Road to Damascus
 - Acts 9:1-8, 15-16
 - 2 Cor 5:7, Heb 11:1 walk by faith not by sight
 - Hab 2:4
 - Acts 14:22
 - Phil 1:29
- Right relationship
 - Lord/Master and servant
 - submission
 - humility
 - order
- Traffic:
 - light
 - few
 - remnant
 - due to conditions, gotta be: alert, diligent, determined
- Destination:
 - eternal life
 - John 5:24 hears and believes, has everlasting life
 - Rom 10:4
 - 1 John 5:11-12
 - John 14:6 with John 8:31-32

The “Road System” is Binary – one or the other, not both

One cannot travel on both roads at the same time...man cannot

- have it both ways
- travel simultaneously on 2 roads going the opposite directions

There is a Rock that separates the 2 roads...Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

- immovable
- reaches from heaven to hell
- the rejected stone Matt 21:42-44

Adrian Rogers:

In Chicago there is a nightclub called “The Gates of Hell.”

Across the street is a church called Calvary Church.

Passerby to policeman: “How do I get to The Gates of Hell?”

Policeman to the passerby: “If you want to get to the Gates of Hell, just go right past Calvary.”

John 6:51-69

(per Ezk 3, to eat = to believe)

Acts 26:18, 25

Is the Way of God narrow?

Take it up with God, not me

John 7:16 with Deut 18:15-19

We don't mind if airline pilots, pharmacists, and construction engineers are “narrow-minded” but, when it comes to where it matters most (eternal life), man comes unhinged.

We can only be saved from justifiable eternal death on the offended God's terms, not our own individual “good enough” terms

Every man is free to decide which road to travel, but not free to not decide

There is no neutral ground when it comes to Jesus

Every man is free to choose but no man is free to choose the consequences of his choices...can decide to jump off roof but not bypass gravity

The choice of which road to travel is given to every individual...

God does not choose the path for any individual

This is a warning to

- The Church
- this Church
- each of us

The broad way is living according to

- our lust (the flesh)
- our emotions, what we “feel” about something/someone (the flesh)
- our reasoning/intellect/philosophy (the flesh)
- our understanding...believing only what we see and understand

The strait and narrow Way is living according to

- faith (the Spirit)
- denying Self, the world (1 John 2:15-17)

The broad way says that after death,

- Everybody goes to heaven
- There is Nothingness...cease to exist

The strait and narrow Way says that after death...comes eternity
The question is: Where?

On the broad way are

- Lemmings who believe the lies of the devil
- citizens of the world

On the strait and narrow Way are

- disciples of Jesus Christ who Is 1:18
- citizens of the kingdom of God

So...which road are you (here, on radio, on Internet) on?
We are to judge ourselves!

Are there hordes of people going where you are?
You're probably going the wrong way.

Do most people agree with you?
Your thinking is probably not right (in one accord with God).

Are you popular?
Watch out!

Are you alone?
Look again, Jesus is walking with you and before you.
Are you looking to see how many others are around or with you?
Look instead at the footprints ahead of you.

Who is your "guide"?

- Self: emotions, intellect, lusts, religion, pride
- Spirit of God (John 16:13)

Self knows only the way that leads to destruction/eternal death
The Spirit alone leads to eternal life

Pick the Right Way!

The "Roadmap" in this world is blurred, distorted, confused
Because of false prophets – Warning #2 next week

Let's gather in small groups to pray...in agreement with, in one accord with our Father...
to let the Holy Spirit write these words on our hearts and to transform our lives

Warning #1: Pick the Right Way

May we hear the voice of The Good Shepherd Who is the Way!

Closing Song