

THE SPIRITUALITY OF CHOICE

MATTHEW 7:13-27 | ERIC SIMPSON | November 14, 2021

- A Call to Narrow Spaciousness

Matthew 7:13

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

gravitational pull of human history = wide gate & broad road, to do what you want, how you want, whenever you want

Spaciousness leads to spiritual destruction, narrowness.

Narrowness leads to spiritual life, spaciousness.

Psalms 18:19

He brought me into a spacious place; he rescued me...

Psalms 31:8

...you have set my feet in a spacious place

But the gate to get there is narrow, it's narrow because it's Jesus-shaped.

- A Call to Wise Assessment

Matthew 7:15

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

Matthew 7:16

By their fruit you will recognize them.

fruit = inward quality of character, the kind of person that they are

Tying good deeds on a bad tree doesn't make it a good tree.

- A Call to Decision

Matthew 7:24

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Every religion, every human heart until it is awakened by the Holy Spirit, believes that you give God a good record and then God does things for you.

BUT, the Gospel is that God gives you a perfect record in Jesus Christ

People who think they can save themselves vs. People who know only Jesus can do it

"Many will say TO ME on that day..." (v. 22)

- "that day" = what's real will be what's left
- "to me" = there's a meet-up coming with Jesus

"In summary, then, the disciple or apprentice of Jesus...is one who has firmly decided to learn from him how to lead his or her life, whatever that may be, as Jesus himself would do it. And, as best they know how, they are making plans—taking the necessary steps, progressively arranging and rearranging their affairs—to do this. All of this will, in one way or another, happen within the special and unfailing community he has established on earth. And the apprentices are, of course, perfectly positioned to learn how to do everything Jesus taught." – Dallas Willard