

Sovereign Grace Church
“Gates, Paths and Choices” outline
October 28, 2018

Matthew 7: 13-14

Life is filled with choices. Some choices are easy....like whether to choose to get a drink of water after getting very thirsty. And some choices are difficult...like whether or not to pay a given amount of money for a particular used car! Choices always have consequences....some are pretty innocuous, like taking a bit more time to go on one road vs. another, and some are pretty costly....like who you choose to marry, or whether or not to join the Marines! But consequences there will be.

In Jesus' gospel he has invited us to join Him in living in His Kingdom of Righteousness and Love. The invitation indicates that this involves a decision to leave our way of doing things and embracing His ways. This is a choice that will have the most serious of consequences. More serious than whether to live in India or America...whether to have that surgery or not....whether to home school your kids or not. This is because the nature of the choice is permanent and eternal....and involving graphically opposed destinations: Life vs. Destruction!

At the close of His sermon Jesus gives us four metaphors which stress the inevitability of making a choice and the serious and life-altering consequences of the choice we make! We will look at the first this morning.

Deut. 30: 15-20

1. What IS the Salvation to which these different “paths” purport to lead us?

- **not a matter of knowing correct doctrine**
Jn 5: 39; 17: 3

- **not a matter of external obedience to God's Law**
Matt. 23: 5

- **Salvation is Living Life as it was Meant to be lived...in fellowship w/ the Triune God.**

2. The Broad Path v. 13b

- **Is there really a “gate” to this path?**
Eph 2:1

- **“many” some, most or all?**
Rom. 5:15

- **Worldly Tools/Goals**
I Jn 2: 16
- **Why does the broad way seem so easy and natural?**
Col. 3: 9b-11

3. The Narrow Path vv. 13a, 14

- **“few”?**
Jn. 14:6
- **Difficult? Or Easy?**
Matt. 11: 28-30
- **Discipleship and Transformation**
Rom. 12: 2; Col. 2: 19

Lesson

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

1. What is it about this metaphor of the narrow & broad paths that is picture and what is reality? If we are originally “formed” by our surroundings, is it possible that someone may be on the narrow path and have no recollection of making a choice to be so? What follows from this possibility?
2. Define the broad path and compare it to the narrow path. Why might one choose to stay on the broad path? Why might one choose to leave the broad path and enter the narrow one? Read Luke 9: 22-23. What does this say about the “cost” of entry upon the narrow way?
3. How might the narrow path be described as difficult? Why does Jesus say what he does about this path in Matt. 11: 28-30? How are you finding the narrow path?
4. Is it possible to just be an agnostic w/ reference to Jesus' invitation? Why or why not? What is the difference between making a choice and not making a choice. Is not making or postponing a choice, a choice?!
5. Evidently there seem in actuality to be many choices in choosing a life direction only one of which is Jesus'. Why should I choose Jesus' in light of all these other choices? What makes His path good or right and the others bad or wrong? Extra Credit: Write a 5 page paper defending your answer.