



Part 13

**Who and What
Will You Choose?**

Matthew 7:13 - NIV

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

Matthew 7:14

But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

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. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

Matthew 7:17

Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

Matthew 7:18

**A good tree cannot bear bad fruit,
and a bad tree cannot bear
good fruit.**

Matthew 7:19

Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 7:20

Thus, by their fruit you will
recognize them.

Matthew 7:21

Not everyone who says to me,
'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom
of heaven, but only the one who
does the will of my Father who
is in heaven.

Matthew 7:22

Many will say to me on that day,
'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in
your name and in your name drive
out demons and in your name
perform many miracles?'

Matthew 7:23

Then I will tell them plainly,
'I never knew you. Away from me,
you evildoers!'

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**Who and What
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Principle #1

Life is filled with choices that require decisions and accompanying actions, especially when we come across a “fork in the road.” The Bible recognizes this truth and speaks to it on many, many occasions.

Choices and Decisions

- **The way of the righteous or the way of the wicked.**
- **The way of the sluggard (lazy) or of the diligent (hard-working).**
- **The way of the wise or the foolish.**
- **To be faithful or to be disobedient.**

Choices and Decisions

- **To be sexually pure or impure.**
- **To be truthful or a liar.**
- **To be a parent that disciplines their child out of love or to be a parent who hates their child by letting them do whatever they want to do.**

Deuteronomy 30:15-16a

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.

For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in

Deuteronomy 30:16b

obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

Deuteronomy 30:17

But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them,

Deuteronomy 30:18

I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

Deuteronomy 30:19

This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live!

Joshua 24:15a

But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the

Joshua 24:15b

Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

1 Kings 18:21

Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.”

Principle #1

Life is filled with choices that require decisions and accompanying actions, especially when we come across a “fork in the road.” The Bible recognizes this truth and speaks to it on many, many occasions.

Principle #2

The wide gate and the wide road is full of people who have chosen to elevate themselves over the Lord. In their heart they have concluded, “My life will not be about what the Lord wants; but about what I want.”

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.**

Wide Gate, Broad Road

- It is large, spacious, beautiful, pleasing to the senses, luxurious, and well traveled.
- The terms “wide” and “broad” are spatial, but they also evoke a sense of ease and comfort.

Wide Gate, Broad Road

- It is the popular road.
- It is the well-known road.
- Lots of people are on this road but it is not too crowded, there is always room for more.
- There is no sense of others here.

Wide Gate, Broad Road

- **One can remain unbothered on this roomy, comfortable road.**
- **Ideologically; it is open-minded.**
- **Morally; it is permissive.**
- **It has very few rules.**
- **Virtually anything goes.**

Wide Gate, Broad Road

- Spiritually it is inclusive. Those on this road argue that there is a wide highway to heaven. Take the left, take the right, or stay in the middle, they say. All the signs here tell us we are all headed to the same place.

Matthew 7:14

But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Small and Narrow

Jesus is crystal clear in his teachings. There is no universalism in the Bible. Not everyone is going to be saved. The way to God is exclusive and restrictive. There are not many ways or roads that lead to heaven. There is only one.

Small and Narrow

The road that follows Christ is a road that is limiting and restrictive. It will involve pain, suffering, brokenness and persecution. Those traveling this narrow road will experience troubles, afflictions, and difficulties, cyclically.

Small and Narrow

It is a road that can cause us to doubt and even despair if we take our eyes off of our Lord and His Kingdom. It is the road that requires genuine belief, faith and hope in the promises of God regarding how it will all turn out.

Small and Narrow

Most importantly, it is the only road that will take us to the gate of Heaven, wherein lies He who is the LORD of Lords and the KING of Kings, and who has the power to grant us eternal life.

Principle #2

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**Many of our sins are
rooted in our idolatry of
self, which says:**

**“I want to be the one,
instead of God, who
determines _____.”**

Principle #2

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Principle #3

Just as it is absolutely crucial to correctly choose the correct gate and the correct road, it also matters which spiritual leaders, shepherds, and teachers we will entrust ourselves to, listen to, and follow.

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We are called to examine the fruit of those who profess a message from God, for they may be impostors. History has taught us again and again that churches, denominations, schools, mission groups, and individuals have been, are, and always will be susceptible to false teaching.

The final proof of any ministry is whether it promotes obedience to the Father's will. – Michael J. Wilkins

The false prophet [is] someone who does not advocate the narrow way presented by Jesus.... They do not tell the whole truth, and [so] their total message is false. – Don Carson

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Principle #4

Jesus is fully aware of the fact that we can profess to the world that He is our Lord without actually making Him our King. In those cases, King Jesus is forced to reject those professions of faith as false and inauthentic.

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'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom
of heaven, but only the one who
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Principle #5

Those who wish to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven must not only profess Jesus Christ as their Lord, but they must also do the will of the Heavenly Father here on earth.

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