



Part 14

**Our Current Choices
Always Produce Long
Term Consequences**

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.

Matthew 7:25

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

Matthew 7:26

But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

Matthew 7:27

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Matthew 7:28

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,

Matthew 7:29

because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

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Principle #1

No one gives us more informed, extremely meaningful choices and more freedom than the Lord God.

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

**No one gives us more informed,
extremely meaningful choices and
more freedom than the Lord God.**

Principle #2

There is an undeniable allure and an irresistible draw towards the wide gate, the broad road, and the foundation made of sand for the spiritually blind, spiritually deaf, and spiritually dead.

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.**

Matthew 7:26

But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

Matthew 7:27

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

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 claim 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 involves pain, suffering, sacrifice, 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 gates of Heaven, wherein lies He who is called the LORD of Lords and the KING of Kings who has the power to grant us eternal life.

Principle #2

There is an undeniable allure and an irresistible draw towards the wide gate, the broad road, and the foundation made of sand for the spiritually blind, spiritually deaf, and spiritually dead.

Principle #3

There is a direct link between the wide gate, the broad road, and the foundation made of sand.

The tempting thing about using sand as a foundation is that it is much easier to build on than solid rock.

The Sand

- **Easy to dig and shovel.**
- **It is right here, right in front of me.**
- **It will save me time.**
- **I will not have to work as hard.**
- **The only real danger is if a huge disaster strikes, which is unlikely.**

Principle #3

There is a direct link between the wide gate, the broad road, and the foundation made of sand.

Principle #4

Every wrong decision made at a fork in the road, without regard for the long-term consequences it will create, often comes from unhealthy or uncontrolled appetites, desires, feelings, fears, etc.

**What makes a decision a “wrong”
decision, beforehand?**

Principle #4

Every wrong decision made at a fork in the road, without regard for the long-term consequences it will create, often comes from unhealthy or uncontrolled appetites, desires, feelings, fears, etc.

Principle #5

In this life, we all harvest what we plant, we harvest more than we plant, and we harvest later than we plant.

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Principle #5

In this life, we all harvest what we plant, we harvest more than we plant, and we harvest later than we plant.

Principle #6

Every season of harvest is meant to cause us to draw closer to God so we can reflect and talk through the lessons learned, so we can be better prepared for the next season of planting.

2 Chronicles 7:11

So Solomon finished the Temple of the Lord, as well as the royal palace.

He completed everything he had planned to do in the construction of the Temple and the palace.

2 Chronicles 7:12

**Then one night the Lord appeared
to Solomon and said,**

**“I have heard your prayer and have
chosen this Temple as the place for
making sacrifices.**

2 Chronicles 7:13

At times I might shut up the heavens so that no rain falls, or command grasshoppers to devour your crops, or send plagues among you.

2 Chronicles 7:14

Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.

2 Chronicles 7:15

**My eyes will be open and my ears
attentive to every prayer made
in this place.**

2 Chronicles 7:16

For I have chosen this Temple and set it apart to be holy—a place where my name will be honored forever. I will always watch over it, for it is dear to my heart.

Principle #6

Every season of harvest is meant to cause us to draw closer to God, so we can reflect and talk through the lessons learned, so we can be better prepared for the next season of planting.

Principle #7

God forgives, but blatant foolishness and selfish choices always have horrible, long-term consequences.

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SERMON
on the
MOUNT