

1: Matthew - The Narrow and Wide Gates - Enter - Bible Gateway

Matthew [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. Each of us builds the house of our lives through our actions, our words, and our attitudes.

I want to encourage you to do everything you can to pay attention today even praying for God to help you , because the choices that Jesus is going put before you will be the most important choices that you ever make in life. This is how Jesus closes the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7: The most important choices in the Bible are always put in black and white terms Deuteronomy They are choices between life and death, truth and lies, good and evil, etc. These choices are meant to draw a line in the sands of our heart and help us to understand that there is no such thing as neutral ground. There is no middle road, no sitting on the fence, etc. The most important choices in life are black and white choices, not grey ones and it is the black and white choices that give us the wisdom to make grey ones. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Choose the Narrow Gate 7: He is telling us here that there are two ways to live, or two directions that our life can take toward the narrow gate or toward the wide gate. The first way is easy and it leads to a wide gate. There are many who take this path and who enter this gate. Now, you need to know that this path does not advertise its destruction. Instead, this path of popularity promises pleasure that in the end delivers deadly poison. Then there is the narrow gate. The way to this gate is hard to travel. It is also hard to find, because there are few that find it. This means that this way is unpopular. However, this gate leads to life eternal life. No one comes to the Father except through me. What Jesus is trying to get us to see is that life is ultimately a choice between life and destruction. The way of the world may be wide, easy, and popular, but in the end, it is a deadly path. I would say that the way of the world also advertises itself as many ways, but ends up being one massive one-way highway with many lanes. The way of the kingdom may be narrow, hard, and unpopular, but in the end, it will be worth every struggle. Therefore, Jesus instructs us to choose and enter the narrow gate which leads to eternal life. Have you ever heard someone refer to the way of the world as a rat race? I once told a friend that I believe if one chicken ever ran frantically into a wood chipper, that all the other chickens in sight would follow just because they would be afraid they were missing out on something! Every time the world gets excited about something, we follow suit and think we must have what they do to survive. It could be a path that leads to destruction. Are you on the way to the narrow gate? Be careful before you answer, because we are about to see that there are going to be people at the final judgment that thought they were on it only to find out they were not. Choose True Shepherds 7: Jesus tells us here to beware of false prophets and then tells us how to recognize them. I think this means two things. First, it means they will appear to be part of the fold they will look like other sheep, at least for a while. But John MacArthur says that this could be referring to the woolen attire that a shepherd would wear. But like Little Red Hood would learn, under their disguise lies a ravenous wolf. Jesus give us the answer in verses He says that grapes are not gathered from a thorn bush and figs are not gathered from thistles Also, a healthy tree cannot, and therefore does not bear bad fruit; a diseased tree a false prophet cannot, and therefore does not bear good fruit. Also, trees that bear bad fruit will be destroyed at the final judgment. Now what does that mean? John Stott says that it can mean their character, conduct, teaching, motives, and the effect their teaching has upon others. How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. What about the people you listen to on the radio or the television? What about the friends that you take advice from? I struggle to apply this at times, because many times false teachers are not even on our radars, when the truth is that we should be more concerned about them than we would be a child predator. A child predator is a serious matter, but a false prophet can damn you and your children to hell for all eternity. Jesus would not tell us to beware of them unless they were a serious danger. When it comes to choosing true shepherds, let us remember that Jesus is the True and Good Shepherd John Choose an Enduring Foundation 7: Here again, we need to pay special attention, because Jesus is going to say something shocking to get His point across. We see here that God will not only deal with false prophets at the final judgment, He will also deal with false professors. Friends, I

cannot overstate for you how serious a matter this is. What makes the difference? Look at the way He lays that out in His contrast of the wise and the foolish man in verses He says that the wise build their lives upon the solid rock of hearing and doing the teaching of Jesus. There he tries to distinguish between the kind of belief that the people in this passage have and what true, saving faith is. But they did not love God. Some of us in this room today love the fact that there is a way out of hell, but do not love Jesus. Some of us know the facts, but see with the eye of saving faith just how worthy Jesus is of supreme devotion and allegiance. Did you know that Thomas Jefferson invented his own personal version of the Bible? What he basically did was go through and pick all the portions of the Bible that he wanted to believe and obey and cut out the rest. Most of us in this room know just how foolish a move like that is, because we cannot pick and choose which parts of the Bible that we will believe and obey, but how many of us live like this in our daily lives? This is in essence what we are saying when we live like we want the benefits of salvation without the demands of salvation. I want you to notice that it is the storm that reveals what kind of foundation that our lives are being built upon. Now that is ultimately a reference to the final judgment a theme we are seeing repeatedly in this conclusion to the Sermon on the Mount , but how true that statement is in our lives here on earth as well. Folks, if this was true of the crowd Jesus was preaching to, it will probably be true of most Sunday morning crowds including church leaders , including our own. If this passage teaches us anything, it is that appearances can be deceiving. The path of the wide but deadly gate is easy, but those who are on it are clueless to the destruction it leads to. Diseased trees can appear healthy for a while. Houses can appear to have solid foundations but be vulnerable to storms. People can even assume that Jesus is their Lord when He is not. Jesus loves you enough to tell you this because He wants you to be wise. He wants you to find life in Him. He wants you to be fed and led by true shepherds. He wants you to have a foundation that withstands any storm. He even died to make this reality for His people. What will you choose today?

2: Kingdom Choices (Matthew)

Matthew New International Version (NIV) The Narrow and Wide Gates. 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. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Two Choices Matthew 7: We are looking for the perfect present for the most special person in our life. We walk into a store and there is a large room with shelves on every wall. On these shelves are boxes; different sizes, different shapes, different labels, different colors, and all are beautifully wrapped with gorgeous paper and preciously tied ribbons except for one. This one box is different. Which are we likely to grab? One of the beautiful boxes, of course! We begin to open the beautiful boxes, and find that they are all full of sawdust! But the one box, that plain and simple looking one, within we find it to be full of all types of treasure, jewelry, gold, precious stones. There is also a piece of paper entitling us to go to any jewelry store in the world at any time we want, and pick out anything in the store for FREE! For the rest of our lives! Now, which box do we want? Do we want the beautiful boxes or the plain and simple one? To the one who chooses this box also comes criticism, persecution, and possibly death! What I am describing with this illustration are the two religions of this world! Not really, when reduced to their common denominator we find there are only two. But yet it contains treasures that will last for all eternity! Matthew In our text this morning we find that we are called upon to make a choice. Everyone here this morning will make that choice, and it will be evident by what we do. There Are Two Gates. It conveys a sense of urgency. It is a demand for action right now! It is important that we enter in the right gate. There is only one gate that opens to the narrow way. There is only one correct choice to be made here. A person will not just stumble through the gate. No one is accidentally saved. We must make a conscious decision to place our faith in Christ. It suits the carnal mind. Some folks are proud of the fact that they are broad-minded. That simply means that they have no standards or guidelines by which to live. There is plenty of room for the world, and its philosophy. It is a crowded way. Sometimes in a large crowd a person can be pushed or carried along with very little effort. It is an easy path to travel, one that is well worn by the multitudes who have gone on before. It is a fatal way. The choice is ours. Which way will we choose? Will we go along with the crowd, or will we choose to follow Christ? Our choice makes all of the difference in this world and in the world to come! There Are Two Identities. How do we identify someone who makes the correct choice? We cannot tell just by looking. Paul said that even Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light! Jesus said, "Wherefore, by their fruits ye shall know them. Those trees, which do not bear good fruit, will be destroyed. What kind of fruit are we bearing in our lives? There Are Two Professions. Some call Him Lord, but do not do His will. He that doeth the will of the Father will enter heaven. Have you made a true profession of faith in Christ? There Are Two Foundations. One is on shifting sands. These are they who hear, but will not obey. It could not withstand the storms! A person may choose the sands of this world upon which to build, but it will not last! Their life will come crashing in upon them. One is on the solid Rock. The man who makes this choice is considered to be wise. With the proper foundation, Jesus Christ, his life will be able to hold up to the trials and difficulties that will come. This represents the one who will hear the Word of God, and will choose to obey it! So what will we choose? It is up to us. We are challenged to choose the strait gate and the narrow way. We must choose to bear good fruit in our lives; to serve Christ with our hearts; and to build our lives upon Him and the principles of His Word.

3: Matthew , Choose! – West Palm Beach church of Christ

Matthew King James Version (KJV) 13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Brent Kercheville December 4, Jesus brings his marvelous sermon that we call the Sermon on the Mount to end with a call for the people who are listening to him to choose. Jesus gives us a number of pictures as he ends his sermon for us to decide between the two choices that lie before us. Let us notice the first picture Jesus gives. The Narrow Gate 7: Now is the time to decide about becoming citizens of the kingdom of heaven. Jesus has shown the characteristics of his kingdom in his sermon. The first picture Jesus gives is very simple but surprising. There is a wide gate that many enter through, yet it leads to destruction. Enter the narrow gate. Few will find it and the way is hard but it leads to life. Notice that this decision is a matter of life and death. Jesus forces a decision. There is one right way that few find and there are many false ways that lead to destruction. We should have a good grasp of the narrowness of this gate to life when we think about what Jesus has said about the character of those who are truly kingdom citizens. It is a gate that requires denying self, being poor in spirit, mourning over sins, loving your enemies, not being angry with your brother, not lusting in the heart, turning the other cheek, laying up treasures in heaven, not being anxious about this life, and doing to others what you would have them do to you. This narrow gate that leads to life requires a constant striving to enter. Notice verse 14 again: There is nothing easy about entering through the narrow gate. Joining masses in belief, doctrine, or practice will not lead us into eternal life. Following the masses is a destructive spiritual choice. Jesus did not give us any kind of picture that declares that you are a citizen of the kingdom of heaven if you pick a church and go every Sunday. God has always called for his people to make the choice to follow him to receive life. Moses declared that he had set the choice of life and death, blessing and curse, before the people Deuteronomy Joshua set before the people to choose this day who they would serve Joshua Elijah on Mount Carmel to stop waffling between the two choices 1 Kings Jesus sets before us the same decision of life or death. One way is easy and many find it but it goes to destruction. One is way hard and few find it but it leads to life. The Warning of False Teachers 7: There are all kinds of people who look like they are Christians but they are not. Beware of false prophets. Beware of false teachers. There are churches that look like they are doing what is right but they are not because the gate is narrow and there are many false teachers and prophets. There are many Bible teachers who look like they love God but they are not to be listened to because they are false. What are we supposed to do to know? How can we know what is the right church? How can we know who is a true teacher? Listen to what Jesus says. First, in verse 16 Jesus says that you will recognize them by their fruits. Healthy trees bear good fruit and diseased trees bear bad fruit. Healthy trees do not bear bad fruit and diseased trees do not bear good fruit. Fruit is the first component to watching out for false prophets and teachers. Pure motives and hearts that love God will bear the fruit the reflect that. Jesus tells us that this is not possible. Good hearts produce good fruits. People who are inwardly ravenous wolves will deceive you with their words, but you will see by their actions who they truly are. The other way to recognize those who are false is given in verses You will notice the similarity of what Jesus just said. Christianity is not about words but about submission and obedience. Now I want you to carefully consider verses There are going to be many people who say the right things. There are going to be people who claim to be followers of God. There are going to be many who seem to be devoted to the Lord because of the way they talk. Further, there are going to be many people who on the day of judgment will say that they did many good works in the name of the Lord. Not only are there going to be people who look like Christians, who speak like a Christian, and look like they act like Christians. They had Bible classes. They had worship services. But notice what Jesus will say to them in verse We live in such a pluralist society which says that you can go to any church, that there are multiple ways to God, that if you are generally a good person, or something like this that you will go to heaven. I want us to pause and listen to what Jesus has told us. The way to life is a narrow gate that is hard and few find it. There are many people who are false teachers that will try to take you off of the narrow path to life. There are

many people who will speak like Christians and do works like Christians but Jesus says that he does not know them. Why does Jesus not know them? They are confessing the Lord. Look carefully at the text. They are workers of lawlessness. What does this mean? Simply break down the phrase. The works that they are doing are without the law of God. They are saying the right things and they are doing good works but they are operating outside of the law and authority of God. The gate is narrow that leads to life and people who seem to say Christian things and do good works are not entering the kingdom of heaven if they do not keep to the laws of God as revealed to us in the scriptures. This is why you cannot pick the church of your choice. All religions do not lead to God. All denominations do not lead to God. All churches do not lead to God. Not even all churches of Christ lead to God. Look again at verse Only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven will enter the kingdom of heaven. It is not doing good works or saying Christian things. We must do what Jesus has told us to do. We must do the will of the Father. Otherwise we are also workers of lawlessness. This changes everything about how we live our lives and how we function as a church. They are not acting within the authority of the scriptures. There are churches that teach that sexual immorality is acceptable. There are churches that teach that homosexuality is acceptable. There are churches that teach that adultery is acceptable. There are churches that refuse to pass judgment on sinful behaviors. There are churches that teach that divorce for any reason is acceptable. There are churches that teach that promiscuity is tolerable. There are churches that are invested in social activities, offering softball leagues and other social functions. There are churches that do not think it matters how we worship God even though the scriptures are filled with commands and examples that how we worship God is of the utmost importance to God. Sure, it would be fun to put instrumental music in the building and rock out. But that is lawlessness because there is no authority in the scriptures to do that. There are churches that turn worship into a show so that we come to be entertained rather than coming to give God the glory and praise he deserves. There are churches that teach that we can use the treasury of the church for all kinds of social uses, when the scriptures give us that we must use the money of our Lord teach the lost evangelism , teach the saved edification , and help those brothers and sisters in Christ who are in need benevolence. Do we see what Jesus is saying? We must have a spiritual intensity about us because the gate is narrow and few find it.

4: Matthew, , outline

Two Choices Matthew Imagine this: We are looking for the perfect present for the most special person in our life. We walk into a store and there is a large room with shelves on every wall.

For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it. The relative number of the saved and the lost is plain from this. They shall be as the few to the many. This eternally recurring contrast between the numbers of the saved and the lost with reference to each succeeding generation should not be discouraging. Wheat does not grow grain all the way to the ground but only in the ear. Although salvation is obtainable and available for all who truly desire it, the plain fact is that the majority in all generations will despise it. And, of wheat, it will be remembered that Christ himself used this grain as a figure of the saved and lost in Matthew 3: God will keep on saving men until the "fullness" of his purpose is achieved Romans The term "narrow" is meaningful. Truth can be no other way than narrow, as attested in any field of knowledge whatsoever. A radio band width may be moved almost imperceptibly to tune out a dance orchestra in New York City and tune in a political rally in Southern California. Changing a chemical formula by the narrowest degree possible can profoundly alter a compound. The velocity required to place a satellite in orbit is precisely 17, miles per hour. Why should it seem strange, then, that entering eternal life should be any other way than by the "narrow gate"? The narrowness consists of the restrictions, disciplines, and requirements throughout the whole area of Christian living. Such things as self-denial, forgiveness of others, monogamy, meekness, renunciation of the pursuit of wealth as the chief end of life, and countless other basic scriptural principles are opposed to the natural man whose baser instincts propel him constantly in the direction of the wide gate and the broad way. Only those who are truly spiritual, who have set their minds upon the things in heaven, shall enter and negotiate the straitened way that leads to life; and yet, "Whosoever will may come! All other rights reserved. Bibliography Coffman, James Burton. By the "strait gate" is meant Christ himself; who elsewhere calls himself "the door", John This is called "strait"; because faith in Christ, a profession of it, and a life and conversation agreeable to it, are attended with many afflictions, temptations, reproaches, and persecutions. For wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction; so that the one may be easily known from the other. There is no difficulty in finding out, or entering in at, or walking in the way of sin, which leads to eternal ruin. The gate of carnal lusts, and worldly pleasures, stands wide open, and many there be which go in thereat; even all men in a state of nature; the way of the ungodly is "broad", smooth, easy, and every way agreeable to the flesh; it takes in a large compass of vices, and has in it abundance of company; but its end is destruction. Our Lord seems to allude to the private and public roads, whose measures are fixed by the Jewish canons; which say F16 T. A printed copy of this work can be ordered from:

5: Matthew KJV - Enter ye in at the strait gate: for - Bible Gateway

Pastor Charles Huyett giving the message on "The Choice - Matthew " at Faith Chapel Westridge Ave Burlington WI. Sunday services ta 9 & AM. Everyone Welcome.

Everyone is on a spiritual journey as they travel through life Whether religious or not, we travel a spiritual path b. Every day we make choices that affects the direction in which we are headed 2. Many people think that the paths we can travel are many In one sense that may be true; there are all kinds of religions b. But in another sense there are really only two paths or ways 3. In His sermon on the mount, Jesus spoke of these two ways - Mt 7: Each with its own beginning, each with its own end b. One way is heavily populated, the other is traveled by few 4. Where are you in your spiritual sojourn? Are you on the right way? Are you heading in the right direction? This "gate" represents the beginning to the "way" that leads to destruction 3. It is described as "wide"; evidently it is a gate which: Allows many to enter with no sacrifice on their part 1 It does not require giving up anything 2 One is allowed to bring along whatever "baggage" they desire a E. Is therefore chosen by most people 1 For there are no restrictions concerning belief and behavior 2 It also opens the way to "the path of least resistance" B. This "gate" represents the beginning, or starting point, to the "way" that leads to life 3. Why is it "narrow"? Because it is a gate which: Requires self-denial and obedience - cf. Has no room for The way that leads to destruction is broad because it allows: Any behavior one desires b. Many people love this path a. They think they are "free" b. They believe they are "open-minded" c. They view themselves as "tolerant" of others in this same way B. The way that leads to life is "difficult" because it requires: A righteousness that exceeds that of many religious people - Mt 5: A change in our behavior - cf. Because of its difficulty, many choose not to travel its path a. They think it too "confining" b. They think it is too "narrow-minded" [As Jesus describes the two gates and the two ways, He also reminds us that We have seen reasons why this is so: The entrance is wide: The way is broad: Believe what you want! Do what you want! This is the way people travel by default; unless they are actively seeking the narrow path, this is the one they will travel B. As proven true so often in the past, only few will be saved a. That it must be "found" suggests effort must extended a. As Jesus said in Lk Even then not all will be saved: Paul wrote of the "everlasting destruction" that is to come - 2Th 1: Upon those who know not God b. Upon those who obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ 3. John described it as "a lake of fire" - Re This "life" is the "everlasting life" received at the judgment - Mt It is the "gift of God", given at the end - Ro 6: To those who have been set free from sin - cf. To those who became slaves of God and of righteousness - cf. To those who bore the fruit of holiness - cf. So we have seen that Jesus describes: Are there many roads that lead to heaven? Many people like to think so b. That all religions lead to heaven c. But according to Jesus There are only two roads ways b. One leads to life, i. The other road, filled with many people with many different beliefs, leads to destruction! Are you on the right way, the only way, that leads to life? Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. The way that He provides is a narrow one, for He requires that people keep His commandments - Mt Let Jesus direct you along the narrow way that leads to eternal life!

6: Los Alamos Church of Christ - sermons

(Matthew ESV) I. Choose the Narrow Gate () The first crucial choice that Jesus presents us with at the end of this sermon is a choice between two gates.

These two verses are at the center of the reality of life itself. Despite all of the miniscule decisions and daily components of life, this metaphor illustrates perfectly what choice and decision is most important in life. Jesus does this by using a gate and a path as well as including that there are two possible destinations for each path and gate. Now that we have a good understanding of the origin of the word usage in this metaphor, we can tackle the metaphor itself and see its implications in our lives. Now, we are going to take a look at the comparison of each way, gate, and destination as described by Jesus. Jesus also states that we would have a lot of company. The gate is wide for those who choose this easy road or path. A road that is wider is much easier to travel on. Therefore, if the way we choose to live our life is easy and full of self-pleasure, it will end in destruction. Many people will choose this path according to Jesus. Since it is a wide path, the gate by which this path leads is wide as well allowing many to enter into it. It is much easier for us to live an easy life doing whatever we want to please ourselves. However, the end to this path leads to a destructive hell that forever separates us from our God. Thankfully, Jesus describes another way, the only way to life. The only way to life is through the narrow gate by the narrow way. The life of a disciple of Jesus Christ is not an easy life because of what He requires of us. We can choose easy and destruction or hard and life. There is no easy way which leads to life. There is only the hard way which leads to life. Jesus said only a few ever find it. Be careful that you are not of the many who choose the easy way that leads to destruction. Jesus is the gate John You can choose the worldly life which is easy and be on your way to destruction through the wide gate, or you can choose to live a Christ-like life which is hard and be on your way to life through the narrow gate. They may seem religious and even do good things, but their message is not that of the truth of the gospel and they will very easily and slyly lure you away from the narrow way that leads to life. You will however be able to recognize them by their fruits. For just as a healthy tree bears good fruit, so will a true disciple of Christ display good fruit through his or her word and action. We should be aware of these false teachers even in our worlds today, secular and church. Demonstrate the traits or fruits of a disciple of Christ so that you will be able to more clearly distinguish between true and false teachers. This is also important as Jesus discusses eternal implications of being a true follower. For those who do not truly follow the narrow way that leads to life by means of Jesus Christ, they will stand before God thinking they are made right because of their good deeds. Just because someone acts religious, even saying some true things and practicing good deeds, that does not mean they will enter the kingdom of heaven. Develop a true and deep relationship with Jesus Christ demonstrating the fruits of a disciple and following Him by the narrow way so that He will know you in order for you to enter the kingdom of heaven. Obedience to the Father puts these fruits on display. The key here is what makes the man wise. The man is wise because he builds on a strong foundation, in this case, a house. This is our foundation as Christians and if we are to build on our Christian maturity, we must lay as our foundation the words of Jesus. However, those who have built a strong foundation on the words of Jesus are not shaken by the storm. They do not fall or return to their sin because they are so rooted in the powerful words of Christ. When the storm passes, those who are saturated in the words of Christ and His teachings are left standing. The key to living a life that can surpass the storm is not merely rooted in hearing the words of Christ but also putting them into practice. This is evident as Jesus describes the person who builds his house on sand. Therefore, in verse 27, the one who ignores the words of Christ by not putting them into practice, cannot withstand the storms of life. People with Christian character know they can trust God, even through the pain. Christians can actually grow in faith in the midst of their challenges and struggles.

7: Sermons From Matthew - Are You On The Right Way? ()

Matthew Bible Study (The Gospel of the King and the Kingdom of Heaven) The Sermon on the Mount. Matthew , Choose! () This is the appeal that Jesus.

We all have seen it? It is a story about Ariel, the mermaid, who wants to become human because she has fallen in love with Prince Eric. In a pivotal scene Ariel goes to see the sea witch Ursula to make a deal, so she can become human. Ursula offers to make her human for three days if Ariel gives her voice to Ursula. My favorite line in the movie comes from Ursula as Ariel is attempting to make her decision. It is the end of the Sermon on the Mount. The summary of the Sermon on the Mount is the Golden Rule. We are called to -ask what we should do to others. We bless each other to become more like Jesus. All the pieces parts of the Sermon on the Mount fit nicely into the Golden Rule. Actually, it is one choice framed in 4 different pictures. The key word, in Greek, is the verb; poieo. It is an action word. It occurs nine times in our reading for this morning Matthew 7: Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. Watch out for false prophets. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. Away from me, you evildoers! 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. 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. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. Yes, theology is important. Yes, teaching is important. Yes, our beliefs are important. But when the rubber meets the road it is all about doing. Our theology, our teachings, our doctrines are important because they directly translate into poieo. When the smoke clears, the tough choices we have to make are about doing to others as you would have them do to you!

8: Choose! (Matthew) – Biblical Truths from West Palm Beach church of Christ

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Often, we face "either or" decisions as we move through life. A moment of decision when there are but two choices to make. A lot of folks shrink from those decisive moments, but they come nonetheless. Some people have a "either my way or the highway" mentality. They are so narrow minded that you are either right or wrong, in their humble opinion. The spiritual realm is no different. In this passage, Jesus offers us no less than three "either or" situations. In these areas, there will be no compromise. You will either be one way or the other, there is no middle ground! Now, we do not like to be forced to make decisions. We want to approach them and decide about them in our own way, in our own time. Sadly, in the three areas that I will point out this morning, you have already made your decision. Now, you may have the opportunity to change that decision, but it has been made nonetheless. Allow me to point out these three "Either Or" situations that Jesus discusses in these verses. I want to present each of these "either or" situations with both a life principle and a question raised by the situation. Your eternal destiny hinges on your being found on the same side as Jesus in each of these "either or" situation. The Road you travel always determines your destination. This speaks of a path that is easy to navigate with plenty of room. The other is described as being narrow. This speaks of it being more constrictive, with far less room. The narrow path leads to life Heaven. Friends, there are but two destinations for the soul of man! Every person in this room will either go to heaven or to hell. It is another of those "either or" situations! In fact, everyone in this room was on the broad path when they came into this world, Rom. To continue on this path to destruction requires you to do nothing! You are born into this world headed in that direction and since this is a broad way, you can carry all the baggage you want to with you! There is plenty of room for you and for all your sins. On the other hand, the narrow path is accessed through a narrow gate. There is only one way to get on this path, Jesus - John Passing through the narrow gate is going to require that you lose the excess baggage in your life. You cannot bring your sins along! You cannot bring your other gods. You cannot bring the things of the old life through the narrow gate! This does not imply that those who are on the narrow path are perfect and do not sin. This we know is not true! However, it does mean that they have repented of their sins. They have made an intentional break with their past manner of life. They have embraced Jesus and His plan for their lives. But, failure is not their way of life! But, sin is not a way of life for them either! They have committed their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ and they sincerely want to please Him, walk with Him, and be like Him. They have changed, 2 Cor. Is that your testimony? Did your profession of faith cost you anything? The nature of your tree always determines the nature of your fruit. Good fruit is that which pleases the Lord and that which glorifies Him before a lost and dying world. Bad fruit is that which is produced by man naturally. It is the works of the flesh. It is evil and it is offensive to God, Gal. How The Fruit Is Determined - Jesus says that the nature of the fruit is determined by the nature of the tree. An apple tree yields apples. An orange tree yields oranges. The only way to change the nature of the fruit is to change the nature of the tree! That is why Jesus told Nicodemus that a man "must be born again", John 3. If you are producing good fruit, things spiritually acceptable in the sight of the Lord, then you have a good tree. However, if you consistently produce bad fruit, then your tree is bad as well! The only solution is the new birth! I realize that you cannot always tell the quality of the fruit by the outward appearance. However, as a general rule, if it walks like a duck, looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, then it is probably a duck! A life that is lived in sin, disobedience and rebellion to God is a life that is producing bad fruit. Bad fruit suggests a bad tree. A life that consistently exhibits the fruit of the Spirit is a life producing good spiritual fruit. Good fruit suggests a good tree. Neither can duplicate the other for very long! The nature of the tree will come out in the fruit! The good tree draws its life from Jesus, John As a result, it produces a life like His. The bad tree draws its life from the world, Eph. Did your profession of faith radically change your life? How You start always determines how you finish. A Word About Buildings - Jesus tells us about two houses. No doubt,

outwardly, these two houses looked alike. They may have even been made from the same materials. The only difference in the two was the kind of foundation each house rested upon. One was built upon sand, while the other was built upon a rock. A Word About Beatings - Each house was subjected to the same kinds of abuse. Rains fell, winds blew and savage floods wrapped themselves around these houses. One house fell in the storm, but when the storm was over, one house was still standing! A Word About Builders - These men were pretty much alike. They both wanted houses and they both built them. Both watched as the house they had built was attacked by the same vicious storm. One watched in horror as the house he had built succumbed to the storm and fell in the raging flood waters. The other watched in satisfaction as his house weathered the storm and came through it standing tall. Jesus looked at these men as proclaimed one a fool, but the other He called wise. Did you know that every person in this room is a builder this morning? Your life is like a house. It looks pretty much like all the other houses around it. It is made from the same materials. It is also attacked by the very same storms. Storms of sickness, storms of sin, storms of temptation and storms bearing any of 10, other names all attack the house you are building. Some houses in this room are going to weather the storm, others are not! Some builders here can be called wise while others are fools. Some houses will stand in the judgment and others will fall away into Hell. What makes the difference? The quality of the foundation upon which the house stands! The foolish man took no time to plan or to think about his house. He just built it where he was and left everything to chance. He built upon the sand!

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1. *What Jesus gave us in this passage is a list of metaphors. The first thing we must do is seek to understand the metaphors, then we can understand the points He was trying to make.*

Narrow and wide Jesus is the door to life John It will end in eternal life in heaven. Two groups of travelers: Two kinds of trees: Two kinds of fruit: Two kinds of builders: Two kinds of houses: What Jesus gave us in this passage is a list of metaphors. The first thing we must do is seek to understand the metaphors, then we can understand the points He was trying to make. On your handout is a chart. Here we have two gates: It is an invitation. You have a choice. There are two gatesâ€”you must choose one and enter. So, Jesus is the door to life. Secondly, we see two ways: What I mean is this: Jesus assumes that someone who trusts Him as Savior will also follow Him as Lord. This does not mean that every true Christian will automatically live out the Sermon on the Mount. If we become robots the moment we are saved, then most of the New Testament is meaningless. If you choose the gate, it only makes sense to choose the path. In these verses, Jesus makes it very clear that there are not many paths up the mountain. Or do you want him trying to set that plane down just anywhere he wants? But Christianity claims to be narrow and true. Third, we see two destinations: Those who choose the wide gate will end in destruction. Jesus has been describingâ€”throughout the Sermon on the Mountâ€”a lifestyle on planet earth. In the here and now. Yes, it looks forward to the future kingdom of God where we will live this out in perfection, but He is challenging us to begin nowâ€”in this life. Any other life will not only end in destruction but will actually be a long, slow slide into destructionâ€”ending in the worst destruction of all: Fourth, we see two groups of travelers: Many will choose the broad way and consider themselves very good and spiritual people. Our conversation really illustrates how real all this is. I just asked her what she believed. She was more than happy to share her beliefs with me. We can just make Him or Her or It up in a way that makes us feel comfortableâ€”a god we like. They want a god they can manageâ€”not one to whom they are accountable. That just seems right. It just feels right. But it is deadly. Jesus makes it very simple and clear. You have two choicesâ€”the narrow gate which leads to the narrow way which leads to life. Or, you can choose whatever you want to believeâ€”the wide gate which leads to the broad way which leads to destruction. But in the next section, Jesus makes it clear that believers must be careful who they listen to. Why switch to a warning about false prophets? Because, false prophets will lead you to the wrong gate. They will convince you that the wide gate is the truly enlightened option. They will use spiritual sounding words in a spiritual sounding way to convince you that the broad way is the best way to go. He will look like a true believer. She will sound so wise. He will seem gentle, and godly and biblical. But take a closer look. You and I can get fooled too. The modern youth ministry culture hasâ€”in my opinionâ€”thrown many true Christian students off course. Many will never recover. Some are, many are well-intentioned people who have bought into a watered down philosophy of discipleship. That movement has encouraged youth pastors to teach students on a very shallow level, to focus on having great experiences together, but not challenging them to think and grow. Not helping them become firmly grounded in the faith. This is whyâ€”statistically speakingâ€”the first year of college is when most Christians walk away from the faith. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? Jesus changes the metaphor to treesâ€”so fifth on your handout is two kinds of trees: Trees represent prophets or teachers. Fruit represents what a prophet or teacher produces. It might flower up and look beautiful and healthy. This is true of teachers, as well. Jump ahead here for a second. So, the real question is, what is meant by fruit? So 6 on your outline is two kinds of fruit: Sometimes false teachers will live apparently flawless lives. They will do great deedsâ€”build great churches, inspire enormous crowds, sell millions of books that genuinely seem to help people. He will stand in judgment. Jesus clearly claims to be the Lord and Judge of all. Again, the teachings of Jesus make it clear: There are not many ways to know and serve God. Their doctrine and their deeds. Look at Matthew The seventh metaphor here is two kinds of builders: Notice also the eighth metaphorâ€”there are two foundations: The opposite of course, is the foolish man. In other words, this is an issue of obedience. But only one obeys them. Finally, notice the ninth metaphor, there are two kinds of houses: You can live your life according to the

CHOICES (MATTHEW 7:13-29) pdf

words, the teaching of Jesus. Or, you can live your life according to any other way. Those last two verses conclude the Sermon on the Mount and communicate a lot for us. Jesus claimed He Himself was the way to life. He presented Himself as the final solution. The only solution for mankind. Three things really stand out to me here that we need to take to heart as we conclude our look at the Sermon on the Mount. I believe Jesus wanted us to make some big, hard choices. Have I ever entered through that narrow gate? For some of you, perhaps the major choice is about those gates. Will you choose one of the many belief systems available out there, or will you choose what Jesus Christ said was the only way to life? The invitation from this passage is very clear: Enter through the narrow gate: Trust Christ for salvation. Maybe you need to ask yourself this question: Who am I listening to? Do you really perceive false teaching as dangerousâ€™as Jesus indicates here?

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