

“JESUS’ KINGDOM MANIFESTO”

BIG IDEA . . . Part 16: True Judgment – The Ultimate Choice

(Matt. 7:13-14)

INTRO: Today’s text is the beginning of the end of the SOM. REVIEWING (Hughes p. 241) . . . The entire SOM shows us the difference between true disciples and the rest of humanity. Life is about choices (hundreds, thousands a day – billions in a lifetime). These final verses (vv. 13-27) are Jesus’ invitation to God’s way. Moses, Joshua, Elijah, Jeremiah, etc. all referred to this destiny – determining decision, the ultimate choice. The choice is between one and the many – the one right (true way) and the many wrong: (false ways).

READ 7:13-14 . . . Which way to heaven? Illus: Spell . . .

CONTRASTS: Jesus continues to distinguish between the fake, external hypercritical, self-righteous of the S&P, and the true righteousness. He offers that is internal (heart), non-judgmental, loving, etc. The contrast Jesus (Mac. p. 451) . . .

QUOTES: K. Barth . . . E. Trueblood . . . Apostle Peter 1 Pet. 4:17 . .

JESUS PRESENTS 4 CONTRASTS in gates (wide & narrow), ways (easy & hard), destinations (destruction & life) and crowds (many & few).

I. TWO GATES (Entry points)

- A. The NARROW Gate (“Enter by the narrow gate” v. 13a).
 1. You *must* enter - urgent command – “Enter” is in the aorist imperative tense demanding definite and specific action. Command is NOT to just ponder, admire, etc., but to enter this gate now. You have to choose.
 2. You must enter *this* gate – only gate to narrow road. A relationship with Christ is only gate! Narrow-minded? Intolerant? YES! But that’s what the Bible says (Jn. 10:9; 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5).
 3. You must enter the gate *alone* (implicit) Unencumbered, no baggage – like a narrow “turnstile” (no couples, groups, churches...).
 4. You must be *searching diligently* for it (“find it”). Have to be seeking. In fact, you must “strive” (agonize) – Lk. 13:22-24. Repentance is a must to enter. We must change our minds . . . and turn to Him.
- B. The WIDE Gate (v. 13b) – the opposite. Demands no self-denial, no repentance, no change, no obedience, little Lordship. You can hold on to your pride, self-righteousness., self-indulgence, etc. Just add Jesus to your life – no changing required. Salvation is not addition, but transformation (2 Cor. 5:17).

II. TWO WAYS (Roads, Paths)

- A. The EASY Way (v. 13b) – This is the way of the world, the ungodly, and the wicked. This way is easy, attractive, inviting, inclusive, permissive, tolerant, self-oriented – few rules, few requirements, few restrictions. Just profess Jesus, or be religious. Sin is tolerated, truth is moderated, humility is ignored. God’s Word is respected but not studied, His standards admired, but not followed. No growth needed. No sacrifice expected (Pro. 14:12).
- B. The HARD way is the total contrast. It is narrow with restrictions and demands. You must not only strive to enter but continue to agonize to live it. God’s way to salvation is remarkably simple, but not easy. We pay nothing for our salvation, yet coming to Christ costs us everything!

III. TWO DESTINATIONS (Ends)

- A. “Leads to *destruction*” (v. 13a). “Apoleia” is not extinction or annihilation, but total ruin and loss (HELL!). Mac quote p. 457 . . .
- B. “Leads to *life*” (v 14a). “Zoe” is life full and abundant and eternal with God and His people. The narrow gate that leads to a hard life ends the life that offers peace, joy, purity, comfort freedom, hope,...

IV. TWO CROWDS (Groups of people)

- A. “and those who enter by it are *many*” (v. 13d). This way is popular and crowded. It’s impossible to miss this way because you are already on it unless made the ultimate choice! The majority is not always right. All roads don’t lead to heaven, but to hell, except for one!
- B. “and those who find it are *few*” (Lk. 13:23-24) - remnant

V. THREE WARNINGS FROM PASSAGE

- A. *Some are on the wide road to destruction and they know it.* Make the ultimate choice today.
- B. *Some think they are true disciples, but they are not.* They have deceived themselves. Please honestly examine your life (vv. 21-23 later). 2 Cor. 13: 5 . . .
- C. *We must be honest and clear when sharing the gospel message of salvation* – whole story, no fire insurance! “Door shuts” (Lk. 13:25).

CONC: True judgment begins with self. Have I made the ultimate choice? Have I entered the right gate? Am I traveling the right road? Am I confident heaven is my end?