

THE ONLY TWO WAYS  
Matt. 7:13-29

Intro: There is nothing that is easier to understand in the Bible than the Gospel. It is presented in many different ways, but each one is so simple that it possible for very young children to understand and be saved.

But, in spite of this, it is amazing to see the confusion which has always existed on this one point. Some men are so confused that they will try to get us to believe that any way is the right way just as long as you are sincere.

All of this confusion point up the need for the ministry of the Holy Spirit. No one will ever understand the Gospel, regardless of its simplicity, unless the Holy Spirit illuminates each darkened mind.

But the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God, and therefore we must never allow the ignorance and spiritual blindness of men to cause us to seek any means apart from the Word of God to get men to see their need.

No one was more aware of this blindness than was our Lord Jesus Christ. He spoke of believing, of drinking, of eating, of coming, of receiving--and many other things--all of which were different ways of saying the same thing.

In our text tonight He speaks of entering. But we cannot examine vv. 13, 14 without just a word about the entire message, commonly known as the Sermon on the Mount.

What was the Lord doing in this message?

He was describing the character of those who were His people. He was showing the principles by which His people could be expected to live, what their purpose in this world was to be.

But as He prepares to conclude His message He points out three problems which can and do cause confusion:

- (1) The problem of false teachers (vv. 15-20).
- (2) The problem of empty profession (vv. 21-23).
- (3) The problem of hearing, but not doing (vv. 24-27).

(Comment on each one briefly.)

Note the reaction of the multitudes as recorded in vv. 28, 29. They were at what He said and the way in which He said it. Never before had they been under such a teacher.

Now let us go back to vv. 13, 14 and note how simple he makes

the Gospel which was the very heart of the message He came to proclaim. If you would understand the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ, you must understand the foundation.

Note first of all that

## I. EVERY PERSON MUST ENTER IN.

What did He mean by this?

It means very simply that a change has to take place in every person's life. As far as salvation is concerned everyone is born outside of salvation, and if you are to be saved you must enter in.

Right away the Lord runs into conflict with the teaching of His day, and a great amount of the teaching of our day.

The Lord Jesus sought to wake men up; religious teachers usually spend most of their time putting people to sleep.

The scribes and Pharisees were teaching the people that basically it was enough to be a son of Abraham. They would not tell you that you were on the outside! Neither will many of the religious teachers of our day. They will lull you to sleep making you think that you are already a child of God, and that you just need to improve, but you do not need to be saved.

We are told that we are all the children of God, and they will turn to a passage like Acts 17:29, but they ignore vv. 30, 31 and clear passages like John 1:11, 12, and 13.

They will give you reason, not revelation. The Word of God is very clear. Read John 10:7-9.

Next our text tells that

## II. IT IS IMPORTANT TO ENTER THE RIGHT GATE.

Our text calls it, "strait," narrow.

Contrary again to the outstanding voices which seem to be pointing the way, there are only two gates: a right one and a wrong one. If you are not right, then you have to be wrong. The Bible leaves us no room for believing that there are many ways to God, that we are all going to the same place, but we are going in different ways.

There are many who believe this, but they are going to the broad way that leads to destruction. There you can take many ways, but actually it is one which is wide enough to

include all that have chosen the wrong way.

Solomon said, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12).

Sincerity is not enough. Being religious is not enough. You must be right, or you are on the road to eternal destruction!

But let us think for just a moment about

### III. THE FACT THAT IT IS A NARROW WAY.

I doubt if there is anything that is being condemned today more in religious circles than narrowness!

Let us remember that our Lord Jesus Christ called the way of salvation a narrow way.

I know that it is possible for us to be narrow and bigoted in the wrong way, but when we are talking about eternal life and eternal death this is no time for us to close our eyes to the truth.

What is it narrow? Because it is made only for some and not for others? No, the Bible makes it clear that salvation is for all. Remember John 10:9.

No, let me suggest tonight that it is narrow for two reasons:

#### A. IT IS NARROW BECAUSE JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY WAY.

Cf. John 14:6.

Was there any reason for Him to come to this earth and to go through what He did if men could come to God any other way?

Cf. 1 John 5:12; Acts 4:12; 2 Cor. 5:21--all are narrow in their view of salvation.

#### B. IT IS NARROW BECAUSE IT IS POSSIBLE FOR MEN TO COME TO CHRIST JUST ONE AT A TIME.

I do not mean that the Lord cannot save thousands who might call upon Him in the same instant of time, but I do mean that we are not saved as nations, we are not saved as members of churches, we are not saved as families, BUT WE ARE SAVED ONE BY ONE AS INDIVIDUALS.

When Peter was concluding his message at the house of Cornelius, he said, "To him (Jesus Christ) give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43).

How often I would have trusted the Lord for someone else, but I cannot! Everyone who would enter into salvation must in the narrow gate by himself.

But I want to mention one other thing about this verse before concluding. Have you noticed that

#### IV. JESUS CHRIST IS APPEALING FOR MEN TO ENTER THE RIGHT GATE?

This is not just information; this is an invitation!

It is not a matter of indifference to Him. He is urgent in His call.

Cf. Matt. 23:37, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not."

He would (in spite of all of the terrible things that they had done), but they would not!

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

"All that the Father giveth me shall come unto me; and him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

Is this not amazing? And yet the Son of God came from heaven proving that the Father loves the world and wants men everywhere to be saved.

Concl: May I do what the Lord Jesus did as He concluded that message to the multitudes? May I ask you if you have received the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour?

Have you like some in the multitude been paying more attention to the teaching of men than to the Word of God? Have you been depending upon your works, your zeal, your sincerity--like some of them were--but you have not received Christ? Or, do you know a lot about the Bible, you know your house should be built on the Rock, Christ Jesus--but you just haven't trusted Him yet.

489 Remember that you must trust Him for your salvation. You must enter in the right gate, the narrow one. Why not now?