

## JESUS AND THE NARROW GATE

IF YOU WERE TO ASK MOST PEOPLE, THEY WOULD SAY THEY HAVE SOME LEVEL OF SPIRITUALITY. MANY THINK OF GOD AND RELIGION LIKE THIS: EVERYONE IS STANDING AT THE BOTTOM OF A MOUNTAIN, THERE ARE TRAILS GOING UP EVERYWHERE ALL REACHING THE SAME PLACE IN THE END. SEEMS RIGHT...NICE...INCLUSIVE.....RIGHT? JESUS HAS A VERY DIFFERENT ANSWER TO THE QUESTION "DO ALL ROADS LEAD TO HEAVEN?" JESUS HIMSELF DESCRIBES THE HUMAN DILEMMA IN THAT, IT IS MORE LIKE 2 PATHS. ONE LEADING TO A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PLACE THAN THE REST.

SET SCENE:

JESUS, THE NIGHT BEFORE HAD PICKED HIS 12 DISCIPLES AND CAME DOWN THE MOUNTAIN TO THE MASSES (DISCIPLES AND THOSE WHO JUST WANTED THINGS FROM JESUS). HE BEGAN TO TEACH AND PREACH THE GREATEST SERMON EVER PREACHED TO HUMAN EARS.

FIRST JESUS SPOKE ABOUT WHAT HIS PEOPLE ARE LIKE:

THEY ARE POOR IN SPIRIT, MOURNING OVER THEIR OWN SIN THEY ARE HUNGRY FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS AND STRIVE FOR PEACE WITH ALL.

THEY ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH MEARLY REFRAINING FROM MURDER AND ADULTRY BUT THEY WANT TO FIGHT AGAINST THE SPIRITS OF ANGER AND LUST

JESUS GETS TO THE BODY OF THE LETTER AND SHARES THAT HIS PEOPLE ARE HUMBLE AND THEY PRAY LIKE THIS:

“OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME”

HE SAYS HIS PEOPLE KEEP THEIR EYES ON THE PRIZE, TO STAY GENEROUS AND NOT STINGY NO MATTER WHAT THE CIRCUMSTANCE

JESUS CONTINUES TO ASSURE THOSE AROUND HIM THAT THEY ARE NOT TO WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW, OR THE STRESSES OF LIFE...STAY PRESENT AND AWARE OF RIGHT NOW

THEN JESUS WRAPS UP HIS SERMON WITH THE WARNINGS OF DANGER

THE DANGER OF FINDING THE WRONG ENTRANCE

THE DANGER OF FALSE TEACHERS WHO WILL LEAD YOU TO THE WRONG ENTRANCE

THE DANGER OF A FALSE PROFESSION OF FAITH

THIS IS THE PART OF THE SERMON I WOULD LIKE TO FOCUS ON TODAY

IN A TIME OF SUCH CONFUSION...I THOUGHT THIS SCRIPTURE IN PARTICULAR WOULD FILL US UP WITH HOPE AND STRENGTH

IT IS AN INVITATION AND A WARNING

Matthew 7:13-14

English Standard Version

<sup>13</sup>“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy<sup>[a]</sup> that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are

many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

THERE ARE ONLY 2 GATES AND 2 PATHS. EVERY SINGLE HUMAN BEING IS ON ONE OF THEM. EACH PATH LEADS TO TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT DESTINATIONS....OR SHOULD I SAY ETERNITIES

THERE ARE SEVERAL CONTRASTS TO THIS SCRIPTURE TWO DIFFERENT GATES, 2 DIFFERENT PATHS, 2 DIFFERENT DESTINATIONS, TWO CROWDS ON THOSE PATHS

JESUS HAS DESTROYED THE MOUNTAIN EXAMPLE OF SALVATION

PICTURE THESE GATES WITH ME, ONE IS MASSIVE, BEAUTIFUL, BUSY WITH MANY GOING IN AND OUT.....THE OTHER ONE IS PRETTY PLAIN LOOKING AND SO SMALL THAT ONLY ONE INDIVIDUAL AT A TIME CAN GO THROUGH

LITERALLY JESUS IS TALKING ABOUT THE TWO ENTRY POINTS OF ETERNITY...ONE LEADS TO HEAVEN(GODS PRESENCE ETERNALLY)  
ONE LEADS TO HELL(ETERNITY SEPERATED FROM GOD)

EVERY PERSON IN THE WORLD IS ON ONE OF THESE PATHS...EVEN IF YOU SAY," I HAVENT CHOSEN A PATH" YOU HAVE MADE A CHOICE  
YOU CANNOT BE NEUTRAL

Deuteronomy 30:19

English Standard Version

<sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live,

## LETS LOOK AT THE WIDE GATE

Matthew 7:13-14

English Standard Version

<sup>13</sup> “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy<sup>[a]</sup> that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

THIS GATE IS THE MOST INVITING APPARENTLY BECAUSE MOST PEOPLE SEEM TO GO THROUGH THIS GATE AND ARE CURRENTLY ON THIS PATH

WHY? BECAUSE ITS EASY...WHY IS IT EASIER? BECAUSE WE WERE TAUGHT HOW TO SURVIVE ON THE WIDE PATH. WE WERE TAUGHT ALL ABOUT THE WIDE PATH...DIRECTIONS, SIGHT SEEING, MAPS IN FACT, BY JUST BEING BORN, YOU ARE ON THE WIDE PATH

WIDE ROAD /AGAINST GODS WAYS

APATHY TOWARDS ONES SPIRITUAL CONDITON  
WORSHIP OF FALSE RELIGIONS/FALSE TEACHERS  
HUMAN PHILOSOPHIES AND IDEOLOGIES  
FAKE PROFESSION/LIVE HOW YOU WANT

THE APOSTLE PAUL SPEAKS CLEARLY THAT WE ARE IN A WAR OF IDEAS.

THESE IDEAS BECOME BELIEF SYSTEMS IN US.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

English Standard Version

<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

THE WAR IS IN THE MIND...THOUGHTS BECOME WORDS,  
ACTIONS, AND BELIEF SYSTEMS

THERE ARE MANY OPINIONS ABOUT THE HUMAN  
CONDITION ON THE WIDE ROAD AND THEY CAN BE VERY  
CONVINCING ( ALL THE ISMS )

IT IS THE TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE...THE IDEAS BEHIND THE  
WORDS SPOKEN THAT BRING DOWN THE STRONGHOLDS OF  
THE ENEMY

MOSES DESCRIBES THE WORSHIP OF FALSE IDOLS, IN THAT,  
THEY ARE NOT gods AT ALL. THEY ARE DEMONS

Deuteronomy 32:16-17

English Standard Version

<sup>16</sup> They stirred him to jealousy with strange gods;  
with abominations they provoked him to anger.

<sup>17</sup> They sacrificed to demons that were no gods,  
to gods they had never known,  
to new gods that had come recently,  
whom your fathers had never dreaded.

ANY OTHER IDEOLOGY OR BELIEF SYSTEM THAT GOES  
AGAINST THE REALITY OF JUSTIFICATION OF MAN  
THROUGH FAITH IN THE FINISHED WORK OF JESUS CHRIST  
ALONE IS INSPIRED BY SATAN

JESUS IS WARNING EVERYONE TO PAY ATTENTION!!!

## THE NARROW GATE

Matthew 7:13-14

English Standard Version

<sup>13</sup> “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy<sup>[a]</sup> that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

SAID TO BE LIKE A PRISON DOOR, A GRAVE IN BETWEEN  
ROCKS BARELY BIG ENOUGH TO FIT A PERSON THROUGH IT  
...ONE PERSON AT A TIME  
NO BAGGAGE, NO STUFF, NO SIBLINGS, NO SPOUSES

NARROW...HARD TO FIND  
THERE ARE MANY DISTRACTIONS

...HARD TO FIT THROUGH  
YOU ENTER ALONE WITH NOTHING ELSE  
YOU MUST LET EVERYTHING ELSE GO TO ENTER THROUGH  
THIS GATE

SELF RIGHTEOUSNESS DOES NOT FIT THROUGH THE GATE

...HARD TO ACCEPT  
THE DEMANDS OF THE GOSPEL CLASH WITH ALL OF OUR  
NATURAL TENDENCIES  
PRIDE, OUR LOVE OF SIN

Matthew 16:24

English Standard Version

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Matthew 19:23-26

English Standard Version

<sup>23</sup> And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>24</sup> Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>25</sup> When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” <sup>26</sup> But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

THE NARROW GATE IS THE ONLY WAY TO ENTER ETERNAL LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS. CHRIST MUST FIRST DRAW US TO HIMSELF FOR US TO SEE THROUGH THE CLUTTER AND DISTRACTION... THEN IT IS UP TO US TO FIND HIM IN THE SCRIPTURES TO CONFIRM AND SOLIDIFY THE IDEA AND THE REALITY OF OUR SALVATION THROUGH THE CRUCIFIXION, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

LET ME WRAP THIS UP BY TAKING OFF A LAYER

John 14:6

English Standard Version

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

I AM THE JOURNEY, I AM THE TRUTH YOU WILL FIND AND CLING TO ON THAT JOURNEY, AND FINALLY, I AM THE LIFE YOU WILL EXPERIENCE ON THAT JOURNEY

THAT MEANS WE MUST PAY ATTENTION FOR THE NARROW  
DOOR ALL ALONG THE JOURNEY

READ THE WORD AND YOU WILL FIND YOUR SAVIOR

ARE WE GOING TO DO LIFE LIKE THE WORLD OR ARE WE  
LOOKING TO SQUEEZE THROUGH THE NARROW GATE TO  
LIFE?

IT IS HARDER, MESSIER, SOMETIMES VERY PAINFUL, SCARY  
BECAUSE ITS AN UNFAMILLIAR WAY TO DO LIFE

John 10:7-11

English Standard Version

<sup>7</sup> So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. <sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

CHOOSE CHRIST, CHOOSE THE NARROW GATE SO YOU CAN  
EXPERIENCE YOUR INHERITENCE OF ETERNAL LIFE IN YOUR  
CIRCUMSTANCES NOW

JESUS MAKES A WAY WHERE THERE WAS NO WAY  
HE BRINGS LIFE EVEN IN DEATH

ALTER