

“Series: Eternal Choices”

C.R. 7-22-18

“The Two Roads”

**Text:** Matthew 7:13-14

**Intro:** A preacher was once told that he was so narrowminded that he believed that only his congregation was going to heaven. He replied that he was narrower minded than that. He said he didn't even believe all his congregation was going to heaven. John Phillips said, “We are to be as narrow-minded as the Lord demands, and as broad-minded as He allows”. In our passage today the Lord put narrow-mindedness and broad-mindedness in proper perspective in the light of eternity. We will see clearly that there are only 2 roads that can be traveled, and one of those roads is far less traveled than the other. The question to be answered here this morning is which road are you on? Which gate have you entered?

**1) The Broad Road (v. 13)**

- a. This road has a wide gate to it. Many people, many beliefs, many ideas.
- b. This road is flooded with people and unfortunately it is flooded with people that think they are on the right road.
- c. According to Pew Research's 2014 Religious Landscape Study 66% of American Christians say many religions can lead to eternal life.
- d. 80% of mainline Protestants. 79% Catholics, and unfortunately 52% of us evangelicals.
- e. In 2016 Lifeway Research found 64% of Americans say God accepts the worship of all religions.
- f. Why so many on the Broad Road? **First** because we are sinners. Jesus used the word evil. (Look at verse 11 of this same chapter). The fact is that we are sinners, and sinning comes with birth.
- g. The doctrine of original sin is the easiest to prove. Put a room full of toddlers from every country in the world in the same room with 1 toy, or one piece of candy. See what happens.
- h. The Broad Road does not ask much. Not much talk of sin, or repentance, or holiness. A lot of talk of prosperity, and happiness.
- i. It is a road filled with self-indulgence, self-righteousness, self-satisfaction, and self-achievement.
- j. The Broad Road says you can have the world and what it offers, and you can have Jesus and what he offers.
- k. **Secondly** It is an Easy Road. We like easy. No demands. Like the athlete who has a scholarship but chooses the easiest course of study.
- l. On this road all you need to do is profess Jesus, or at least be religious, and you are readily accepted in that large and diverse group. Sin is tolerated, truth is moderated, and humility is ignored. God's Word is praised but not studied, and His standards are admired but not followed. This way requires no spiritual maturity, no moral character, no commitment and no sacrifice. It is the easy way of floating downstream, in the

- course of this world according to prince and the power of the air. It is the tragic way whose end is destruction. (MacArthur)
- m. This Road says “It doesn’t matter what you believe so long as you are sincere.” Or “How can it be wrong if it feels so right?”.
  - n. The sign posts on this road are marked “FREEDOM & FUN”. But few turn around to see the words on the back of the sign that read “DEATH” & “SORROW”.
  - o. Jesus used the word destruction. This word does not mean extinction or annihilation, but it means total ruin and loss.
  - p. People are travel this road **because of false prophets**. They are buying in to the lies of wolves in sheep clothing.
  - q. Jesus teaches us to deny self, they teach look great, feel great. Jesus warns against materialism, they teach live your best life now. Jesus teaches that there is only one way to the Father, they teach multiple ways. Jesus teaches humility and dependence on God, they teach if it is to be, its up to me.
  - r. **Look at v. 21.** Note how they give their charismatic credentials. They list the gifts of the Spirit, but not the fruit of the spirit.
  - s. Don’t underestimate the influence that bad theology is having on this culture. Many chose the broad road because of lies of the wolves.
  - t. They preach peace, peace, when there is no peace. They preach a different gospel. A Gospel of “a God without wrath who brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross.”
  - u. The Broad Road gets narrower with time. The father down this road you go the less likely you will get off this road. Much like a vacuum with a big head on the bottom but a tiny tube as it enters the bag.

## 2) The Narrow Road.

- a. Notice the gate. It is narrow. The gate is the Lord Jesus himself. “I am the way” I am the door”.
- b. Unlike the Broad Gate and Road with few rules, and requirements this road is a demanding road.
- c. It is the way of self-denial and the cross.
- d. The word Narrow comes from a root word that means “to groan” as under pressure. Compressed.
- e. A West Indian who had chosen Islam over Christianity said his reason was that Islam “is a noble, broad path. There is room for a man and his sins on it. The way of the cross is too narrow”.
- f. No one has stumbled through this gate. You must search this gate out diligently.
- g. **Jer 29:13** “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all of your heart”.
- h. Entering this gate takes effort. You must come poor in Spirit, mourning over sin, and hungering and thirsting for His righteousness to replace your own.
- i. It is for those who want it at any cost.
- j. You must come to this gate naked and broken realizing that you can’t, but He can.

- k. Nothing in my hands I bring simply to the cross I cling.
- l. We can pay nothing for salvation yet coming to Jesus Christ costs everything we have.
- m. We can give nothing or give up nothing that will earn us entrance into the Kingdom.
- n. This gate is Narrow and only allows one at a time with no baggage. Nothing you have done will allow entrance, and you can't go in on the group plan.
- o. It is a road that is difficult and demanding.
- p. The Person show says yes to Christ must say no to the things of the world.
- q. We identify with Christ and we are at war with the devil.
- r. We shall suffer persecution and along the way there are many pitfalls, but we will not be alone.
- s. Read from MacArthur's commentary on Matthew page 458 See attached.
- t. Yes, the gate is narrow, but as you travel down this road it gets broader.
- u. The longer I serve Him, the sweeter he grows. The best is yet to come.
- v. I am not heading to total loss, I am on my way to victory. To Life.
- w. The issue today is that of authority. How can anyone believe that faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to God?
- x. Answer: Because He says so.
- y. You may say "I believe in Jesus" but that's not enough. Even the demons believe in Jesus. But have you by faith walked to the narrow gate and said "I have nothing, I am nothing, I am a sinner, and I have broken the law, but I believe you are my only hope and that you are the only way. I confess my sin, and I trust you and you alone.