

God's Way or the Broad-way

I. Introduction

A. Jesus is looking for disciples to come and follow Him

1. Mark 1:16 - 20 (READ)
 - a. These men thought they were following the path of a great political leader to His powerful throne in Jerusalem
2. They were constantly confused about who Jesus really was
 - a. The time He calmed the sea with a simple word, "Hush - be still" they became much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" (Mark 4:35 - 41)
 - b. There was the time "He began to teach them that [He] must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He was stating the matter plainly when Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him."
 - c. On another occasion He spoke of such things, "but they did not understand...and they were afraid to ask Him."
3. John 14:5, 6 A disciple said to Jesus, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" Jesus said to Him, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."
 - a. The path Jesus was revealing to these men as they followed Him was not to Jerusalem, but the way to God Himself
 - b. Jesus was slowly revealing the way to the Father to these men for one reason
4. Matthew 28:18 - 20 "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
 - a. To go and teach others the way
 - b. Those that become disciples must choose to follow the way that Christ revealed - which leads to the Father

- Even though the lesson was learned hard for Peter - he never forgot its significance and importance - even late in his life when he wrote...

5. 1Peter 2:21 "For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His footsteps."

- a. What will it be?
- b. Will you choose to follow in the footsteps of Jesus as he shows you the only way to the Father
- c. Or will you choose to go the way of the world

- Jesus put it in perspective for us in a short parable...

B. Matthew 7:13, 14 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it."

1. Jesus' way, though narrow, leads to a small gate which is the entrance to life
2. There is another way, broader, wider, easier - leads to a large gate which is the entrance to destruction
 - a. Seems like a simple enough choice - Jesus' way or the broad way
 - I can follow Jesus on the narrow path to life
 - Or I can go with the flow on Broadway to destruction
 - b. It seems like any person would choose to follow Jesus to life instead of the path to destruction...and yet
3. "Many are those who enter" the wide gate that leads to destruction How can this be?

II. Body

A. The Broadway is dangerously appealing for many reasons

1. There's more space!
 - a. On the wide path there is room for everyone!

- b. All are accepted and welcomed on this path
 - I'm OK, and you're OK - everyone is OK
- 2. On the Broadway there's less friction
 - a. You're not likely to rub anyone the wrong way on this path
 - Who likes confrontation anyway?
 - Don't we all need our space?
 - b. There's less friction because on the Broadway - you don't have to get close to anyone
 - You can live in your own little reality
 - It doesn't matter what you do - as long as you don't interfere with someone else's reality
- 3. Life on Broadway is so much simpler
 - a. Because it's so large - it's easy to find
 - b. Because of its width - it's easy to stay on
 - This means there's plenty of room to wonder about carelessly
 - Don't really need to pay much attention to anything - except the things which I like
- 4. The Broadway is extremely fast and efficient: It contains many bells and whistles to keep large masses of people moving freely - quickly - and carelessly to its wide gate
- 5. It leads to a gate that swings wide
 - a. So wide in fact that a person can bring all they want through
 - All of their things, habits, issues, emotional expectations - everything
 - b. There's no sacrifice required at all...
 - Sounds terrific - no wonder many travel on that path
- B. The way that Jesus revealed is very different from the Broadway

1. The way that Jesus revealed is narrow...
 - a. Matthew 5:21, 22 (READ)
 - b. Matthew 5:27 - 30 (READ)
 - c. Matthew 5:33 - 37 (READ)

2. On Jesus' way - people are going to have to get close
 - a. John 13:34, 35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples"
 - If we are followers of Jesus - walking on His path, we must love each other as He loved us"
 - b. Philippians 2:3 - 5 "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus..."

3. On Jesus' way - expect a bit of friction
 - a. Friction from going against the flow of the world
 - 2Timothy 3:12 "Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted"
 - b. Friction from being so close to one another
 - Growing pains are inevitable
 - Closer we become - more patience we need for each other
 - c. We will encounter trials and tribulations on this road
 - There is no room for us to skirt around the difficulties - we must simply endure them

4. Entrance onto Jesus' way comes at a high price
 - a. Jesus compared the high cost to a man seeking fine pearls...(EXPAND)

- b. He compared it to a man who stumbled on a treasure in a field one day... (EXPAND)
 - It cost these men everything to walk this path
 - c. Matthew 16:25 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it"
5. Jesus' way requires great care and focus
- a. 1Timothy 4:16 "Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things..."
 - b. 2Peter 1:19 "We have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place"
 - c. Ephesians 5:15 "...be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise."
6. The way Jesus revealed leads to a narrow gate - only room for you
- a. You must leave all of your things behind to pass through the gate into life
 - Stuff - cars and boats and houses and toys
 - Guilt of past mistakes and failures
 - Baggage we collect along the way of life

- No room for any of these
 - b. Hebrews 12:1, 2 "...let us lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus..."

III. Conclusions

- A. According to Jesus - we have to choose between two options
 - 1. We can go the way of the world - The Broad - way
 - 2. We can follow Jesus' way to life
- B. The Broad-way is dangerously appealing for many reasons:
 - 1. There's more space – less friction – fewer sacrifices

2. Only problem – that path has but one destination = destruction!
 - a. Do we hear what Jesus is saying?
 - b. Do we grasp the seriousness?
 - c. Do we believe what He is saying?
 3. If we do – we have but two responses:
 - a. We must take great pains and make any and every sacrifice to stay the course with Christ
 - AND if we believe Jesus when He says there is destruction at the end of the Broad-way
 - b. We'll do whatever it takes to help those around us to see the dangers of what lies ahead and that they have another choice which leads to life
- C. What course of action are you taking?
1. Are you walking the walk?
 2. Are you telling others?