

Two Parables Of The Two Doors

Text : Matt. 7: 13-14 ; Luke 13:22-30

INTRODUCTION :

A. Have you ever wished life came with an “easy button.”

1. Life seems to get increasingly more complicated and people long for simpler times.
2. The advertising of an office supply company plays on this feeling. (“**Easy Button**”)

B. It takes effort just to survive in life and even more effort to succeed.

1. Surveys have consistently shown successful people work from 60 to 80 hours weekly.
2. Experts content that effort is often more fundamental to success than native ability.
 - a. Average students who work hard in school succeed more than bright ones who drift.
 - b. Those who put forth the effort to prepare themselves surpass those who don't.
3. All people have choices in life and must then live with the consequences of their choices.

C. Salvation is by grace through faith apart from works of righteousness, BUT effort is required to find salvation.

1. Through the Christ, God has reached out to man.
2. Satan strives to prevent people from being saved and then from staying saved.
 - a. Satan actively seeks to divert man's attention and keep him distracted.
 - b. Satan uses misinformation and deceit to lead people away from God.
3. Man must strive to find his way to God.

TRANSITION :

The two brief parables we are about to study were told in different places and at different stages in the ministry of Jesus, but both teach basically the same truth. We must put forth great effort to insure that we have found the way of salvation and that we stay on it.

I. God gives everyone a choice.

A. Love does not, indeed, it cannot force itself.

1. God is love so He gives everyone the freedom to accept or to reject Him.
2. God desires everyone to choose to be with Him, but doesn't force anyone.
3. Regardless of His desire, God doesn't lower His standard just to be accepted by people.
* **Like politicians, some churches will compromise their beliefs to attract followers.**

B. There is NOT an unlimited variety of choices.

1. **Matt. 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. ¹⁴ For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.
 - a. Only the “**narrow gate**” (*door*) leads to God / to Christ / to salvation.
 - b. The “**broad way**” incorporates all other ways. (**None of them lead to God.**)
2. Satan deceitfully advocates “many roads to the same destination.”
 - a. “*We’re all going to Heaven, we’re just taking different ways to get there.*”
 - b. This is the same approach Satan has taken from the very beginning. “**not surely die.**”
3. “**I Did It My Way.**” made millions for Frank Sinatra, but that attitude will condemn one’s soul to an eternity separated from God.

C. The way that God provided is the ONLY way that leads to eternal life with Him.

1. **John 14: 6-** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” (cf – **John 10: 7-10 ..**”door”)
2. If this statement is not true, Jesus is a false prophet.
3. If Jesus is a false prophet, no one can or ever will be saved through Him.

II. Jesus consistently taught this same message throughout His ministry.

A. Notice this same message being taught while on His final trip to Jerusalem.

1. **Read :** **Luke 13:20-30**
2. This is an excerpt from His “Sermon On The Plain” near the end of His ministry.
3. **Matt. 7: 13-14** was taken from the “Sermon On The Mount” early in His ministry.

B. That it was preached in different places tells us it was important to all people.

1. His audience consisted of people from many different places, Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem.
2. It’s message is obviously just as important for everyone, everywhere in our time.

III. Salvation is not for the majority.

A. Today, Satan uses “political correctness” to deny this fact.

1. People in this age do not want to confront anyone or to disapprove of anything.
 - a. In P.C. society, one dare not tell another person his religion is wrong.
 - b. To tell another person they are going to Hell if they don't repent is an anathema.
2. This must have been the culture in Sodom.
 - a. Certainly Sodom did not start off as wicked as it ended up. **Wrong was not condemned.**
 - b. Today, like in Sodom, one dare not condemn another person's actions as immoral.

B. Jesus told this parable to answer a question about how many will be saved.

1. Vs. **23** ... Is it true that only a few will be saved ? (**He had obviously heard that.**)
2. This parable answered the disciple's question in the affirmative.
 - a. **“Yes, few will find salvation so you had better concentrate on seeking it.”**
 - b. **Compare :** **Matt. 7:14-** “... and there are few who find it.”
3. Salvation is available for all, but few will seek it out and accept it.

C. God wants all to be saved, but he will not lower His standards to attract men.

1. Some people will do anything to be accepted by others. (**dress, morals, etc**)
2. **Acts 17: 31-** **Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, ...**
 - a. Repentance involves a change of heart which results in a change of actions.
 - b. Everyone is on the broad way so one must **turn** to get off of it.
 - c. One who will come to God must turn to God, **not** expect God to turn to him.

D. God has always dealt in remnants.

1. **Rom. 9: 27-28** **Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, “Though the number of the sons of Israel be like the sand of the sea, it is the remnant that will be saved; ²⁸ for the Lord will execute His word on the earth, thoroughly and quickly.”**
2. Even now, only the “**few that find**” the narrow door will be saved.

IV. People who want to be saved must put forth the effort to find the narrow door.

A. Vs. 24- **Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.**

1. Man has the individual responsibility to seek out God. (**Not everyone will find Him.**)
 - a. Even in the American system people are responsible to seek out and claim their benefits
 - b. **When injured, workman's comp. is available, but one must apply and follow up.**

2. Deep down within every person knows there is a God.

Rom. 1: 18-20 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

- a. God is revealed through His creation.
- b. God placed within man the instinctive knowledge that there is a God. (**all worship**)
- c. God will hold all men accountable who don't seek Him out. (**no excuse, no exception**)

B. **God has made salvation available to all people.**

1. God sent His Son “**to seek and to save that which was lost.**” (**Luke 19:10**)
2. The Son of God sent all of His millions of disciples into the world “**to seek and save.**”
3. The word of salvation has been written, filmed and broadcast, but only a few find it.

C. **Satan seeks to obscure and to hide the way.**

1. Many are on the broad way to destruction and don't even know it.
 - a. Some are simply naïve or ignorant.
 - b. Others are just not interested. (**totally involved with self**)
2. Satan has made many lanes in the broad way. (**It's a superhighway.**)
 - a. Satan keeps people's minds on the here and the now of this life.
 - b. Satan confuses many seekers with a multitude false ways / doors / gates.

D. **Many think they are on the narrow way, but they're knocking on the wrong door.**

1. Satan has deliberately mislabeled many doors. (**Like the mischievous boys who exchanged the signs on restroom doors.**)
2. **Read ...** Vs. 25-28 (**They thought they had a relationship, but did not.**)
3. **Compare ...** **Matt. 7: 21-23**

V. When the door is closed, it will not be opened again.

- A. The various doctrines of the second chance are comforting, but all are false.**
1. Those who preach baptism for the dead do not understand the teaching of Christ.
 - a. This parable is very clear. **Once closed, the door will not be opened again.**
 - b. **Heb. 9: 27** is equally clear.
 2. **When God closed the door to Noah's ark, all who were outside perished. (a type)**
- B. Those on the outside will be able to see what they missed, but can never have.**
1. **Read ... Vs. 28**
 2. **Compare ... Luke 16: 23-** In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.

CONCLUSION :

- A. So long as you have breath it is not too late to enter through the narrow gate.**
1. **Vs. 30 ...** One's position in the kingdom is not determined by when he was called.
 2. You are being called right this minute to enter at the gate that opens into Heaven.
 3. The time will come when that gate is closed forever.
 - a. No one knows when the Son of Man will come.
 - b. No man knows when his heart will beat it final beat.
 - c. Don't let the door be closed and you find yourself outside regretfully looking in.
- B. The way, the gate, the door is narrow. (small , restricted to faith in the Christ)**
1. One must turn from the Broadway to get on the way which leads through the narrow gate.
 2. Once turned on to the narrow road of faith, one must strive to stay on that way.
 3. It will require effort, determination and courage to defeat Satan's efforts to cause you to stray from the way of faith, but you will not be making that journey alone.
 - a. All in the church support each other.
 - b. Jesus will be with you every step of the way. (**with you always**)
- C. There is only one road that leads to Heaven; Jesus the Christ.**
- Are you on it ?**

INVITATION :

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