

The Sermon On The Mount

The Righteousness of Those
Whose Live's Are Ruled By God - 5:17-7:12

Matthew 7:13,14

The Challenge To Choose

The choice may be difficult, but it is not complex

The Sermon On The Mount

Chapter 5 - The Kingdom Citizen's



- * **Character: (5:3-12)**
- * **Influence upon the world: (5:13-16)**
- * **Righteousness *MUST EXCEED* the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees: (5:17-20)**
- * **Dealings with others: (5:21-48)**

The Sermon On The Mount

Chapter 6 - "Two Great Threats To Our Right Standing Before God"

**Pride & Arrogance
Tempts Us To Seek
The Favor of Men
Rather Than God**

◆ *Benevolence – 6:2-4*

◆ *Prayer – 6:5-15*

◆ *Fasting – 6:16-18*

**G
O
D**

**The World Can
Have A Negative
Influence Over
our Priorities &
Faith**

◆ *Covetousness -6:19-23*

◆ *Divided heart - 26:4*

◆ *Anxiety – 6:25-34*



Either way - We Forfeit Any Reward From God

The Sermon On The Mount

"Judge not, that you be not judged."

Judgment Without Mercy Forbidden - (7:1-6)

Wise Discrimination Essential

Look Out For Logs – Dogs – Hogs – Wolves



Mat 7:3



Mat 7:6



Mat 7:6



Mat 7:15-20

Look Not To Condemn, But To Help!

The Challenge To Choose

Righteousness of the Kingdom Can Be Found By All Who Truly Desire It - "Ask, Seek, & Knock" - (7-8)

Ask

Faith / Trust

Seek

Diligently Pursue

Knock

Submission / Obedience

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.



The Challenge To Choose

THE NARROW WAY

MATTHEW 7:13-14

The Challenge To Choose



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but it is not complex

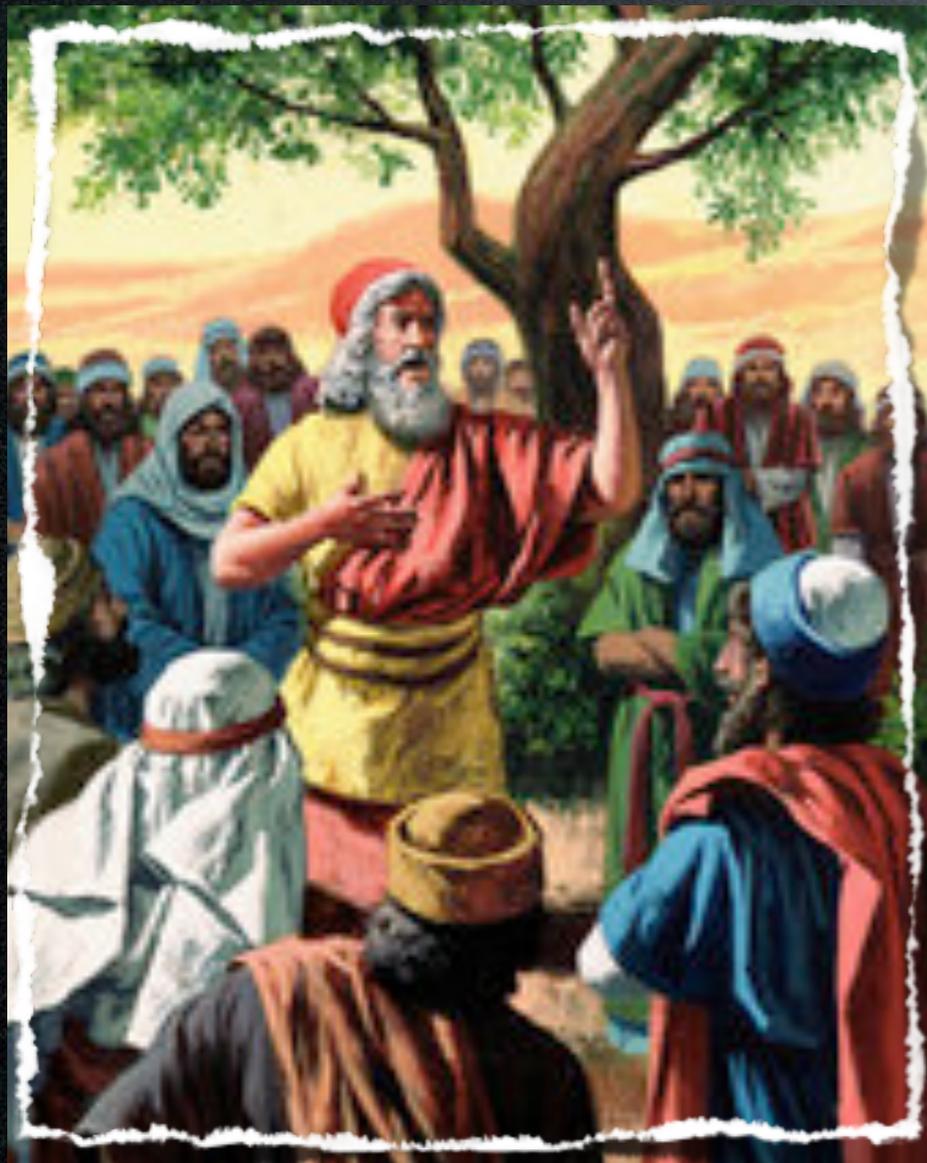
The Challenge To Choose

Matthew 7:13,14 (NKJV)

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

The Challenge To Choose

There have always been
but two choices

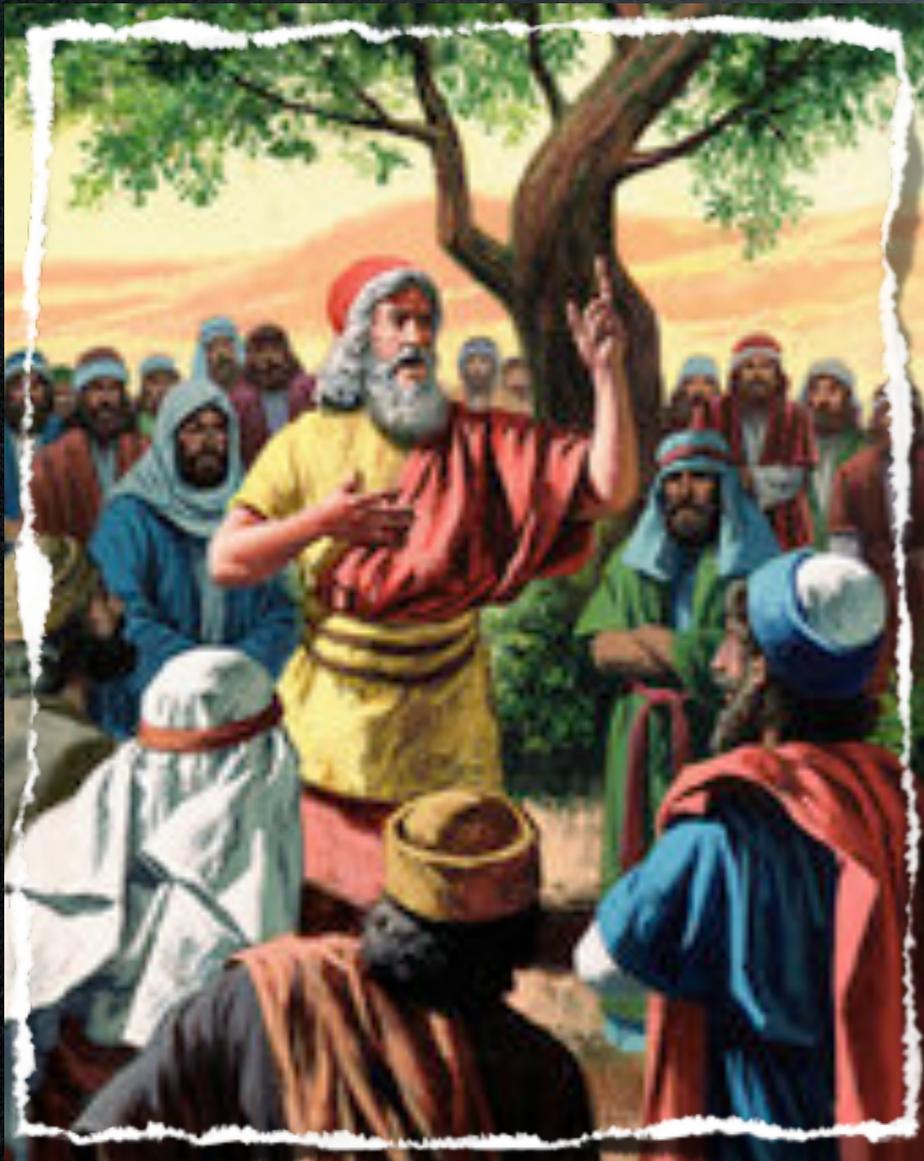


Deuteronomy 30:19

¹⁹ “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

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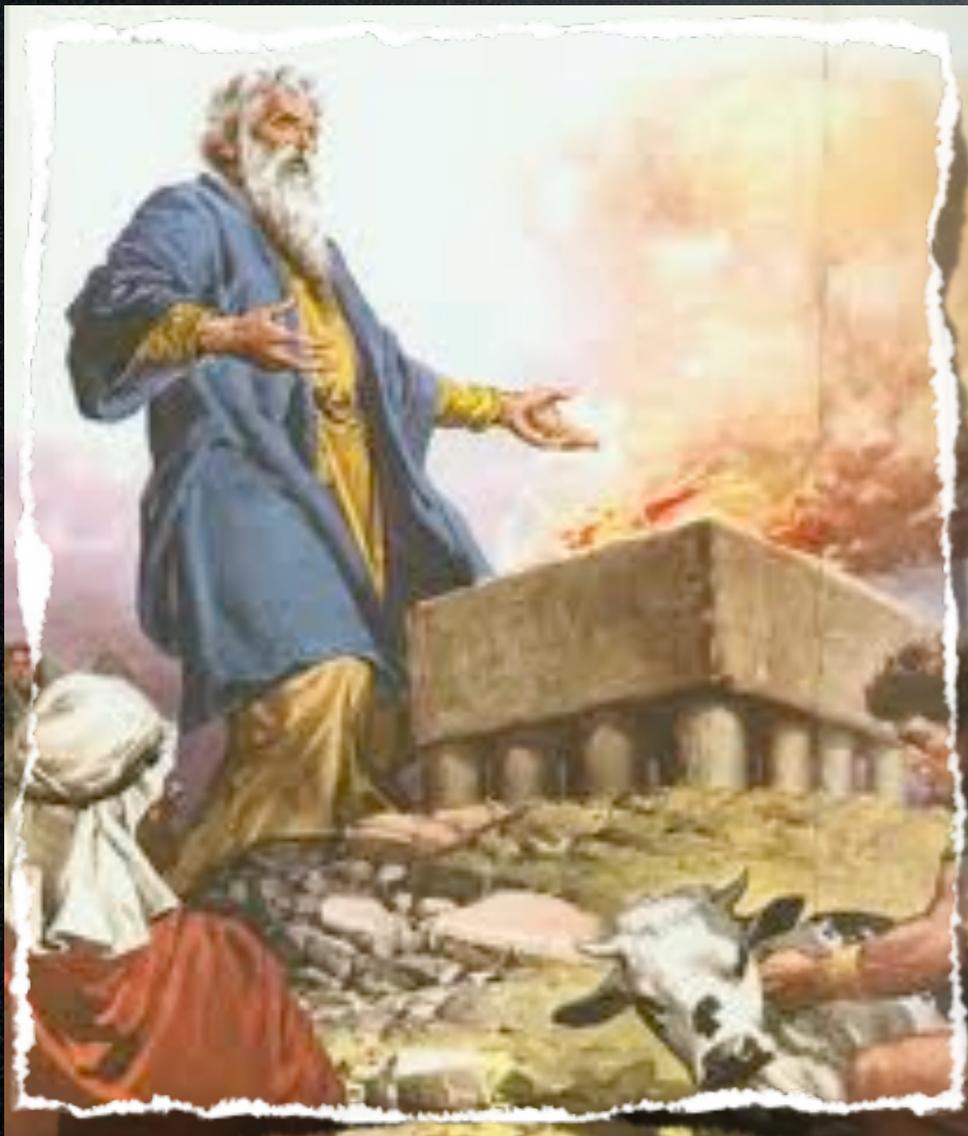


Joshua 24:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

The Challenge To Choose

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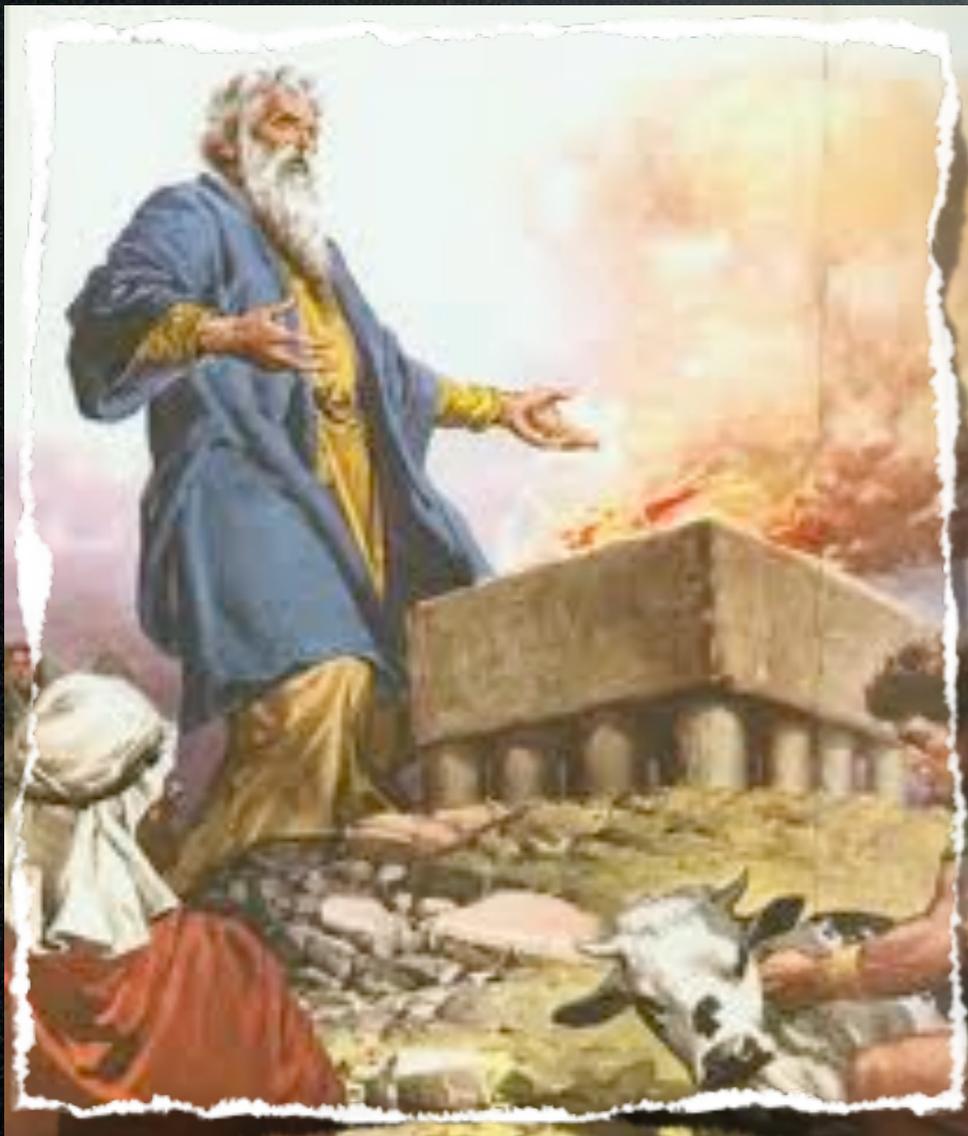


1 Kings 18:21

And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people answered him not a word.

The Challenge To Choose

There have always been
but two choices



Matthew 6:24 (NKJV)

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

The Challenge To Choose

The Choice Is Ours!

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate

And It Is A Choice We Will & MUST Make

The way of
Trust and
Submission



The way of
rejection and
rebellion.

Jeremiah 6:16 (NKJV)

Thus says the Lord: "Stand in the ways and see,
And ask for the old paths, where the good way is,
And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your
souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

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The way of
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Speaks to the Understanding & Will
The need to learn of the way & yield to it's requirements

You CHOOSE YOUR DESTINY

The Challenge To Choose

Only One “Gate” Leads To Life

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate; . . . ¹⁴ . . . which leads to life



Singular In Number

- ~ Jesus is the only “door” (gate) - John 10:7-16
- ~ “I am the way, the truth and the life” - John 14:6
- ~ No other name, (*person, authority*), than Jesus - Acts 4:12
- ~ Only one body - Eph 1:22,23; 2:16; 4:4-6; 5:23,24; 1 Cor 12:13

The Challenge To Choose

Narrow, i.e., The Way Is Restricted

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate;

Requires Effort

Luke 13:24

*"Strive to
enter through
the narrow
gate,"*

Restricted To Those Who

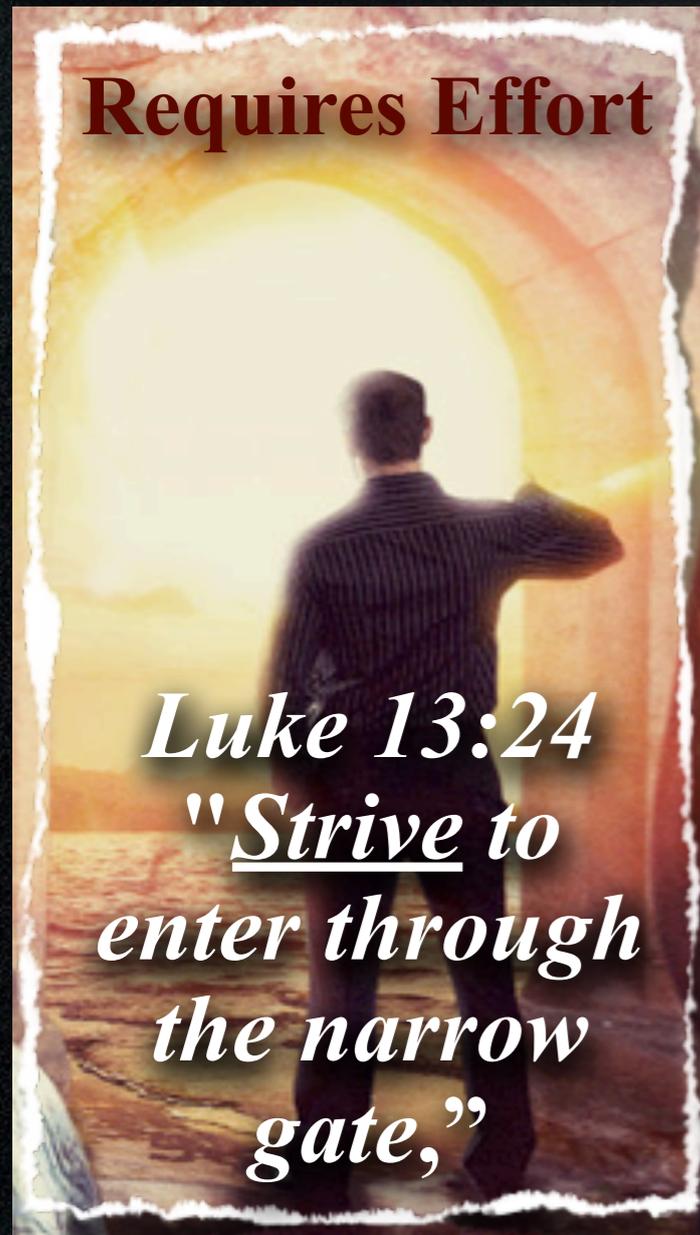
- ~ Possess the character of the Kingdom Citizen - (5:3-16)
- ~ Are truly righteous - (5:20-48)
- ~ Sincere in Worship - (6:1-18)
- ~ Seek spiritual Treasure - (6:19-24)
- ~ Trust God - (6:25-34)
- ~ Are merciful to Others - (7:1-12)

The Challenge To Choose

Narrow, i.e., The Way Is Restricted

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate;

Requires Effort



Luke 13:24

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate,"

Restricted To Those Who

- ~ Deny self / surrender - Luke 9:23; 14:33
- ~ Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30
- ~ Are converted - Mat 18:2-4; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 1 Pet 1:22,23
- ~ Obey the Lord - 7:21-23; Luke 6:46; Acts 10:47,48; Heb 5:8,9
- ~ Discipline themselves - 1 Cor 9:27
- ~ Commit themselves wholly to the Lord - 1 Pet 4:19

The Challenge To Choose

Narrow, i.e., The Way Is Restricted

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate;

Requires Effort

Luke 13:24

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate,"

~ No Room For

- ✦ Sin – Rom 6:23; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 John 1:5-10
- ✦ Pride – James 4:6
- ✦ Stubbornness – Rom 2:5
- ✦ Worldly Lust – 1 John 2:15-17

The Challenge To Choose

Narrow, i.e., The Way Is Restricted

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate;

Requires Effort

Must Lay Aside

Luke 13:24
*"Strive to
enter through
the narrow
gate,"*

- * Pride, self righteousness, selfishness, dishonesty, hypocrisy - Mt 5:3-6:18
- * The "love" of the world & divided heart - Mt 6:19-24
- * An anxious, fearful, doubting heart - Mt 6:25-34
- * An unmerciful, unforgiving spirit - Mt 7:1-6

The Challenge To Choose

Jesus Warns of The Alternative

¹³ "for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction"

Sin Street -
Lust Lane -

FREEWAY ENDS

**Hell
All Lanes**

80

Heaven
Exit NOW!!
NEXT RIGHT

**Entered without ANY
EFFORT AT ALL -**

No Planning - No Commitment - No seeking - No
sacrifice - No requirements - No restrictions -

The Challenge To Choose

Jesus Warns of The Alternative

¹³ "for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction"

Sin Street -
Lust Lane -

FREEWAY ENDS

**Hell
All Lanes**

80

Heaven
Exit NOW!!
NEXT RIGHT

**Traveled Without ANY
EFFORT AT ALL -**

Traveled with ease - downhill - no
padding, pushing or towing!

The Challenge To Choose

Jesus Warns of The Alternative

¹³ "for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction"



- ~ This Wide, Easy Road Leads To Destruction -Mat 25:46; Mk 9:48; 2 Thes 1:9; Rev 20:15; 21:8
- ~ There Are Many Who Go In By It - Mat 7:13; 1 John 5:19

The Challenge To Choose

The "Way" to Life Is "Difficult" (14)

¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life

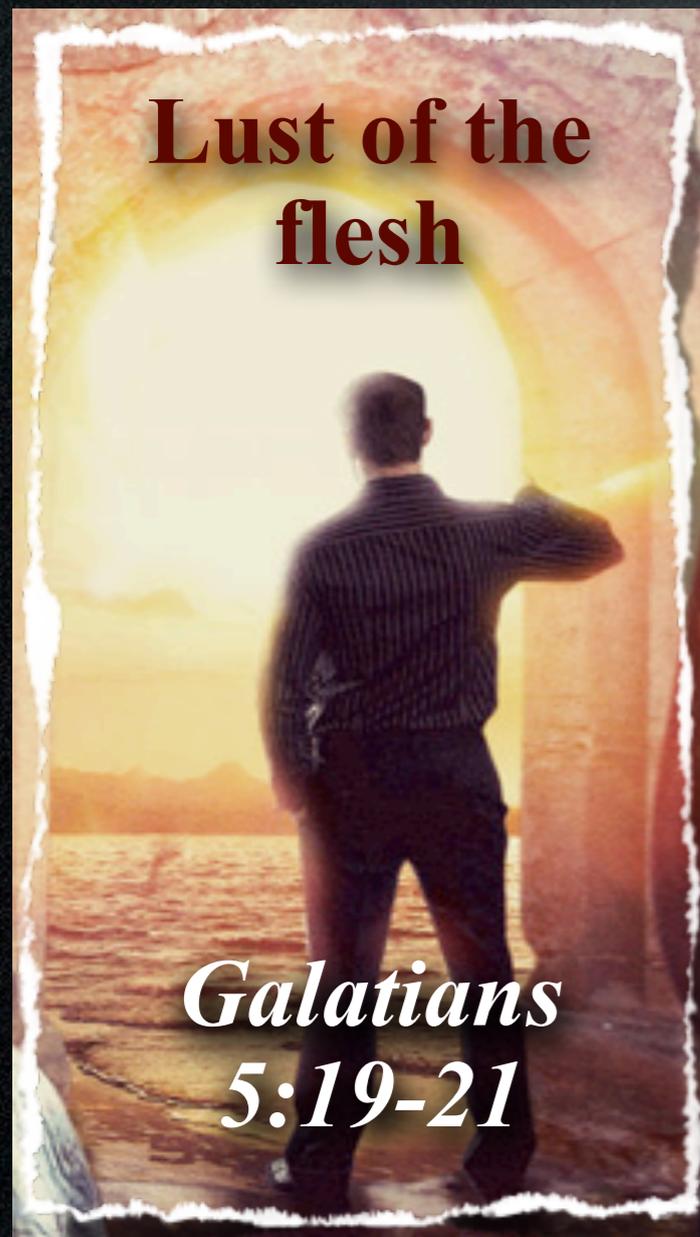


- ~ We live in a world of shortcuts
- ~ No Shortcuts To:
 - * Spiritual Growth!
 - * Developing Spiritual Character!
 - * Acceptable obedience!
 - * Spreading the gospel!
 - * Enduring Persecution & Temptation!

The Challenge To Choose

The "Way" to Life Is "Difficult" (14)

¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life



- ~ Things must be left behind when one enters the narrow gate and travels the difficult way - 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal 5:19-21
- ~ The wickedness which poisons and destroys us is stripped away -

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The "Way" to Life Is "Difficult" (14)

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~ Things that abound on the narrow road

- ~ love - (Phil 1:9; Ep 3:17-19)
- ~ Peace - (Phili 4:7);
- ~ Joy - (1 Peter 1:8);
- ~ Mercy - (Ep 2:4);
- ~ Goodness - (2 Cor 9:8);
- ~ Hope - (Rom 15:13).

The Challenge To Choose

The "Way" to Life Is "Difficult" (14)

¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life



- ~ The narrow & difficult way will cause one who loves self, sin and the world, to feel constricted
- ~ But, for one who loves God - keeping His commandments is not burdensome - 1 John 5:1-3; Deut 10:12,13

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The "Way" to Life Is "Difficult" (14)

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Requires Effort

Luke 13:24

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate,"

- ~ The High Price Of Our Redemption - 1 Peter 1:18
- ~ The Price We Must Pay - Matthew 16:24,25
- ~ The Value Of every Soul - Mat. 16:24-27
- ~ Few Find The Way. - Why? Most Do NOT desire it - Most Are NOT WILLING To Pay The Price!

The Challenge To Choose

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And It Is A Choice We Will & MUST Make

The way of
Trust and
Submission



The way of
rejection and
rebellion.

John 10:10 (NKJV)

I have come that they may
have life, and that they may
have it more abundantly.

John 10:10 (NKJV)

The thief does not come
except to steal, and to kill,
and to destroy.

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John 10:27-28 (NKJV)

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice,
and I know them, and they
follow Me. ²⁸ And I give
them eternal life, . . .

John 10:10 (NKJV)

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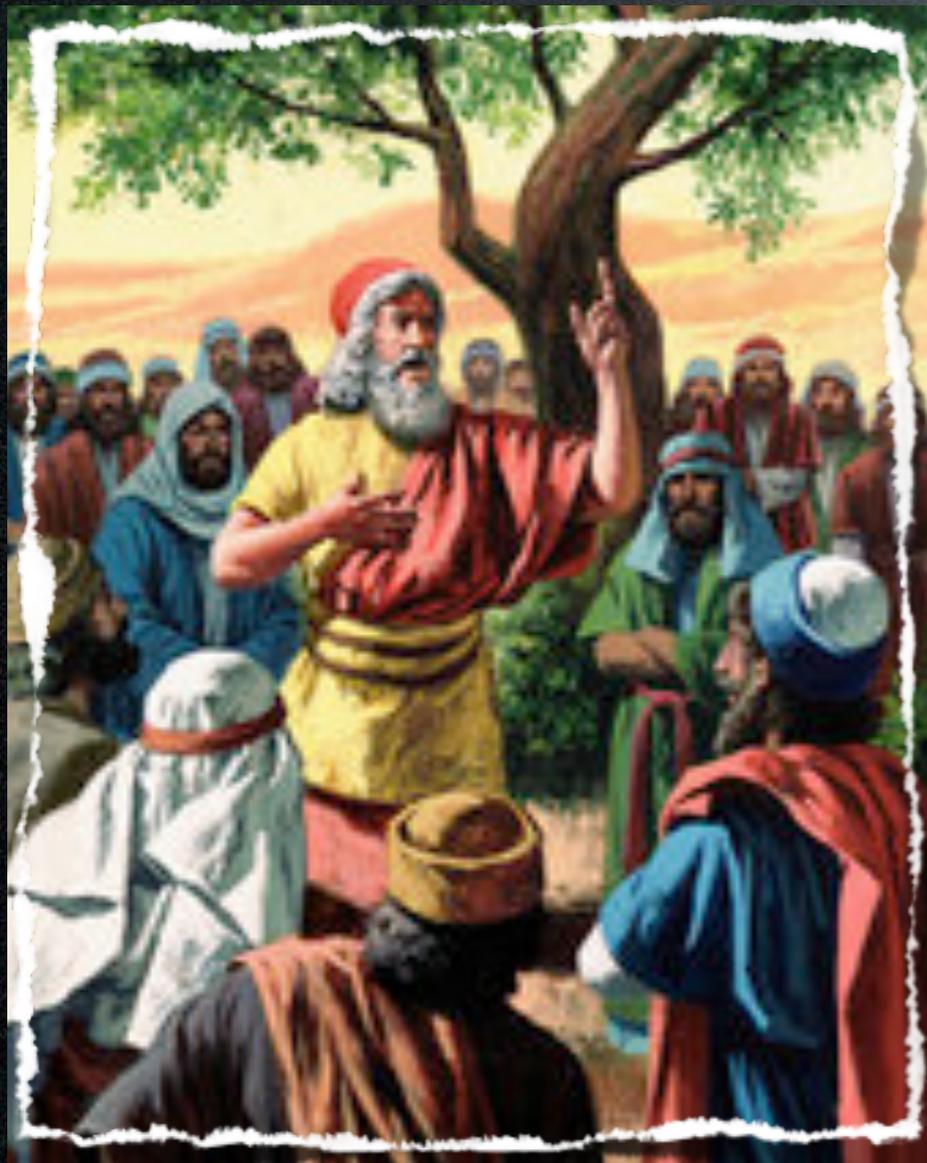
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The Challenge To Choose

Some might despair before the lofty demands of the gospel - BUT ...



Acts 8:30-39

God & His blessings are available to all who sincerely enter His way -

God & His blessings are obtained by all who continue in the difficult way-

The demands of the kingdom citizen are NOT too hard for the willing!

The Sermon On The Mount

Asking, Seeking & Knocking

Charts by Don McClain

Prepared Sept 20-22, 2012

Preached Sept 23, 2012

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John 10:7-16 (NKJV)

⁷ Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who *ever* came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

John 10:7-16 (NKJV)

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ¹² But a hireling, *he who is not the shepherd*, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.

John 10:7-16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own. ¹⁵ As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock *and* one shepherd.