**Main Text**: Matt. 7:13-14, 21-23

* The discussion or the doctrine of ***two ways*** was well known in Judaism, and throughout the Old Testament.

 **OT Texts**

**Deut. 11:26:** **26**See, I am ***setting before you today a blessing and a curse***— **27**the blessing if you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today; **28**the curse if you disobey the commands of the Lord your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.

**Deut. 30:15-18: 15**See, ***I set before you today*** ***life and prosperity, death and destruction***.**16**For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. **17**But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, **18**I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

**Jeremiah 21:8:** **8**“Furthermore, tell the people, ‘This is what the Lord says: See, I am setting before you ***the way of life and the way of death***. **9**Whoever stays in this city will die by the sword, famine or plague. But whoever goes out and surrenders to the Babylonians who are besieging you will live; they will escape with their lives. **10**I have determined to do this city harm and not good, declares the Lord. It will be given into the hands of the king of Babylon, and he will destroy it with fire.’

**Ps. 1.** 🡪 Contrasts the way of the blessed and of the wicked.

**Prov. 2** 🡪 Argues that wickedness comes easy, says wisdom, but righteousness must be pursued.

**Main Point:** Following suit with the OT, Jesus explains that ***the gate to life is narrow*** and its way is hard, and those that find it ***are few***. 🡪 Please do not miss this!!!

**There is a Choice/Decision to Be Made by Each of Us:**

* Ultimately Jesus says that there is a choice to be made. The narrow gate or the broad and wide gate that is easy, but leads to destruction.
* Jesus also offers a warning that many will have thought that they made the right decision or even that they were a follower of Jesus (this is a disturbing reality), but in the end, they didn’t.

**Important Implication:** The narrow way that Jesus tells us to pursue goes against the grain and is not popular in the larger culture.

**Question**: Is sin/wickedness easier than righteousness?

**Question:** Does Jesus’ teachings/do God’s commandments go against our culture’s norms of society? Are they hard to hear and follow, at times?

**Question:** Does the life God calls us to live or the things that God asks of His people (in His Word) go against the life we naturally want to pursue or the pursuits that our culture popularizes?

**Important Implication**: Wisdom that leads to life has to be searched for; it does not come naturally.

**Huge Problem:** Jesus’ words directly confront “relativism.”

* Simply put **Relativism** is the philosophical position that all points of view are equally valid, and that all truth is relative to the individual.
* ***Moral Relativism*** (the opposite of moral absolutism) 🡪 Such as God’s commandments. The belief is that nobody has the right to tell others how to live their life.
* This view would call into question any belief in an ***ABSOLUTE TRUTH*** 🡪 Such as an authority like **God**and certainly **God’s Word the Bible**.

**Further Scripture to Consider**

**1 John 1:5-10: Dualistic Terms VS Monism**

* The Bible talks about things in *Dualistic* terms often versus *Monism*. Light and darkness are separate categories in the Bible, whereas much of the world and worldviews view things as one, being neither light or darkness or being both.
	+ God is light vs darkness, God is good vs evil, God is holy vs not holy, wisdom vs foolish…

**Rom. 12:2:**

2Do not be conformed to this world,**but be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**1 Cor. 2:16:**

**16**“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But **we have the mind of Christ.**

**James 1:5:** **5**If any of you ***lacks wisdom***, **you should ask God**, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

**Truth to Believe:** The belief of relativism will not lead to eternal life!!! - Correct belief matters!

**Important Implication:** Jesus has eternal salvation very much in mind!

* Let’s read Luke’s version: **Lk. 13:22-30**

**John 14:6: 6**Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

**Question:** Be honest with yourself. Does Jesus’ words leave any room for another way?

**The Most Important Question:** *Why might some of the people believe or have believed they would be in heaven* but weren’t in the end, in fact were rejected by Jesus Himself?

**Major Sermon Point:** It is all about ***how you came to Jesus***! Is he your Lord, Savior, Treasure, do you see the Bible as the absolute AUTHORITY of your life, is He your Hope, are you all in (please take serious reading on your own **Lk.14:25-33**)???

**John 6:66-69:** **66**From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. **67**“You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. **68**Simon Peter answered him, **“Lord, to whom shall we go**? **You have the words of eternal life**. **69We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”**

**You Must Choose**: Joshua 24:14-15: **14**“Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. **15But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. **But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord**.” 🡪 **There is no place for *relativism* when following a God who calls us to choose.**