

Choices

This lesson explores the ultimate life or death decision.

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. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. – *Matthew 7:13-14*

1. Identify Your Options.

The Broad Gate

Many people want to lead you down a path: Mohammed, Confucius, Joseph Smith, the Pope, nobody, yourself...

Or, The Narrow Gate.

Jesus.

There is no third option!

2. Analyze the Consequences.

A. Immediate

Easy, free of charge, with many people around you

Or, Difficult, costing you 100% of what you have and who you are, with few people around to help. (If you think it only costs you 98% of what you have and who you are, talk to the rich young ruler of Mark 10:17-31!)

B. Long Term

Destruction

Or, Life

There is no “limbo” or “purgatory,” and there are no degrees of punishment or blessing (in the sense of there being various places).

3. Choose!

A. Know that you’re making a good choice for you. Work through the thoughts above, and know why you’re making the choice to follow Jesus. (You’re seeking forgiveness of sins because you’ve spent some time on the broad way and have thus sinned against the God of heaven. The entrance was broad. You entered either unknowingly or knowingly, but you chose to enter. You’ve repented, not wanting to walk in that way any more.)

B. Enter! Stop hanging around the gate!

Result: A decision you’ll never regret.

Personal illustration: I obeyed the gospel when I was 13. I knew that I didn’t know much about the world, but I also knew that I had sinned (and could name that sin!) and stood guilty before God. I knew that only Jesus offers forgiveness, and only on His terms of repentance, confession of faith, and baptism. I also knew that I would never regret following Jesus, and here 31 years later, can say that has been true!