

Hey Jesus!

Matthew 7:13-14

In this modern age of ease and electronics, the term “Hey” generally precedes an invite to a ‘non-entity’ device or program. It’s “Hey Siri” or “Hey Google” or “Hey Alexa” and from those devices we can directions sent to our phones or computers or tablets and our vehicles to get us to a right destination. I own an iPhone, and the first time I was heading home and my phone already knew what direction I was heading and how long it would take to get you there, it was a little disconcerting. But I’ve learned something about Siri...she can lie. You can tell her where you want to go, and she will lie about how to get there. To make it worse, when you want her to get you going back in a right direction and you start going back to where you started, she tells you to make a U-turn! That heifer wants you to keep going in HER direction and that isn’t always the RIGHT direction. Siri is of the Devil! Most of the time, the old girl will get you to where you’re wanting to go. It may be the long way or a different way, but she controls the options.

In these two short verses this morning, Jesus is removing the options when it concerns eternal life. This is where religion will get you into trouble. Religion is like Siri. Religion can get you lost. Religion will take you the long way around. Religion will try to get you to take a U-turn when you know that you are heading in the right direction. Religion, like Siri, wants to control the options. But in Jesus Christ, there are no options. Galilee was in the northern area of Israel, and there were lots of options there. Greek mythology, Roman paganism, enlightenment through philosophy or polytheism (you can have more than one god) were all a part of the religious landscape of Capernaum and Galilee. Jesus gives one option and one way, the narrow way.

I. THE WIDE WAY

Vs. 13

(a) **The Entrance**: Entering by a wide way takes little to no thought at all, and it takes no skill whatsoever. My great-niece just got a full-size truck for her birthday and I gave her one piece of advice, “Learn how to park that thing and use your mirrors. They don’t make parking spaces for big boy trucks.” Anybody can park a “Mini Cooper” in an 8-foot parking spot and anybody can enter through a wide way.

1. It’s wide (spread out, flat). It’s broad (spacious). But it’s also ‘strait’. If you don’t know what that word means, this is where you can get your rear-view mirrors knocked off.

a. “Strait” means narrow and if you look down in verse 14, you’ll see the same word used in describing the narrow way. It also means that there are obstacles nearby.

Illustration: You probably don’t think about them, but for someone who drives a full-size truck, a drive-thru can be tedious. Those yellow poles at the bank or Taco Bell will tear your mirrors off if you’re not careful. On a motorcycle, an oil spot at the drive-thru will put you on the ground in about a half-a-second. You tell yourself when you see them, “Ah, I can get around that.” But once you’re in that obstacle-filled death trap, only a trip to the body shop will fix it.

b. Jesus said it’s wide and broad and it looks easy and pretty. It accommodates the masses and what they think that they want; mythology, mysticism, polytheism, and the deep thought of philosophy. It’s wide so I can carry as much of my junk right along with me as I want. I don’t have to deal with my sin or my past if I don’t want to. “Hey Jesus, I like a wide gate and a broad path.”

c. Jesus said that the reality is that it is a minefield and it’s destructive (*ruin, loss, damnable, waste*) and there are plenty of people who followed the crowds along that way that looked so easy and wasted their opportunity to accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ and what He did for them on the cross.

Proverbs 14:12 *There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*

Illustration: A Pastor tells the story of a church member that approached him one Sunday morning after the sermon and he said, “The Lord never convicts my heart and the devil never bothers me. I can do whatever I want, and it never bothers me.” The pastor gave this answer, “Two people traveling the same direction rarely collide.”

1) The rich man said in Luke 12,

“This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. ²⁰ But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee...”

II. THE NARROW WAY

Vs. 14

(a) **The Entrance:** Whether the entrance is wide and broad or if it's narrow like in verse 14, you still go in the same way. Unlike the wide way, the narrow way isn't the easiest to see or get to. There is no room for your extra baggage on the narrow way. There is no room for all the other options that religion or free thought offers on the narrow way.

1. Narrow means "difficult, confined, restricted".

a. Paul, in Acts 14, just weeks after being stoned in Lystra, went **back** to Lystra, Iconium, and the surrounding area and preached the Gospel with Barnabas and said this,

They strengthened the disciples and urged them to remain firm in the faith. They told them, "If we are to enter God's kingdom, we must pass through many troubles." (Common English Bible)

- There's no room for chasing this world and loving its pleasures (1 John 2:15)
- There's no room for an unforgiving spirit or your self-righteousness (6:15, 7:1-5)
- There is no room where you love one group of people and hate another group of people who are also created in the image of the Creator

a. But Jesus said that this is the only way that leads to eternal life.

Illustration: Most of us believe that believers have always been called Christians. Those of us who have accepted Christ have been called Christians since 40 A.D. when Acts 11 was written. But for the first 7 years of the Church Age, believers were called followers of "The Way". Paul wrote in Acts 24:14 "*But I admit this to you: I worship the God of my ancestors according to the Way, which they call a sect, believing everything that is in accordance with the law and written in the prophets.*" (CSB) Here in Matthew 7:14 Jesus said The Way is narrow and there will be **few** (punny in number) that find it. Jesus said in John 14, "I AM the Way". Billy Graham once said on national TV that he believed that 85% of church members are really lost! They followed Siri or Google or Alexa for their direction in life but not Jesus Christ the Way, the Truth, and the Life!

(b) **The Entrance #2**: I'm letting the cat out of the bag, but Jesus is beginning (entering) a series of verses based upon people's claims to know the Lord, but they don't. This is how He will end His Sermon on the Mount. This is how He will end The Beatitudes. He IS NOT opening the doors for "Church Membership", "Where You Can Belong, Before You Believe". He IS opening the door to salvation! And on the backside of this invitation to "Enter in", He is SLAMMING SHUT all the other doorways that look easier and prettier.

Isaiah 35:8 And there will be a highway called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not travel it, only those who walk in that Way--and fools will not stray onto it.

Conclusion: "Hey, Jesus...give me directions on how to get to Heaven." His answer is simple, "Enter in at the strait gate that looks like it has some obstructions, it's confined and hard to see...but it leads to everlasting life and only a few will find it."