

The Binary World

Our lives are filled with binary choices – opposing options that require us to make a decision,

1. Truth vs Dishonesty
 - a. Are you honest about a mistake you made at work, ready to accept the consequences, or will you cover it up?
 - b. Prov 12:22. The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in people who are trustworthy.
2. Saving versus Spending:
 - a. Do you save for the future or spend impulsively on something that maybe you don't need?
 - b. Prov 21:20: "In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has."
3. Forgiving versus Holding a Grudge:
 - a. After being wrong, are we ready to forgive and forget or let bitterness take root?
 - b. Lk 6:37 "Forgive, and you will be forgiven."
4. Generosity versus Selfishness:
5. Gossip versus Silence
6. Patience versus Impatience
7. Serving Others versus Serving Self
8. Gratitude versus Complaining
9. Faith versus Fear
10. Pride versus Humility
11. Your Yes be Yes & Your No be NO versus...well, by now you've got the picture.

The binary choice between the narrow and wide gate in Matthew 7:13-14 is a profound metaphor that can be extended to various aspects of life and faith. The passage states:

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

- Narrow Gate: Requires discipline, sacrifice, and restraint. It involves saying no to temptations or desires that conflict with God's will.
- Wide Gate: Reflects giving in to comfort, indulgence, and the easy pleasures of life, often at the cost of long-term consequences.

- Narrow Gate: Calls for trust in God even when His plans are unclear or challenging, walking by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7).
- Wide Gate: Relies only on what is tangible and visible, pursuing worldly security and

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success without considering eternal consequences.

- Narrow Gate: Involves making decisions based on God's Word and eternal truths, which might seem foolish or misaligned with the world.
- Wide Gate: Aligns with popular opinion, societal norms, and the illogic of the world, contradicting biblical principles.

- Narrow Gate: Emphasizes putting others first, serving God and people, and valuing humility.
- Wide Gate: Prioritizes self-interest, ambition, and personal gratification at the expense of others.

- Narrow Gate: Involves forgiving those wronged us, even when it's hard or undeserved. – the value of your forgiveness is directly proportional to the ease with which it is given ...
- Wide Gate: Allows resentment and bitterness to take root, finds justification in our position...justifying anger or revenge as natural responses.

- Narrow Gate: Stands for honesty and moral uprightness, even when it costs something (e.g., reputation, career, or friendships).
- Wide Gate: Rationalizes cutting corners, telling "small lies," or compromising morals for convenience or gain.

- Narrow Gate: Focuses on storing treasures in heaven (Matt. 6:19-21) and living with eternity in mind.
- Wide Gate: Concentrates solely on achieving material wealth, comfort, and success in this life.

- Narrow Gate: Reflects Christ-like love that sacrifices self for the good of others, even without reward.
- Wide Gate: Reflects love that is self-serving, conditional, or transactional.

- Narrow Gate: Requires walking the unpopular or lonely path, staying true to one's convictions in a crowd going the opposite way.
- Wide Gate: Represents the path of least resistance, where following the majority feels safe but may lead to spiritual ruin.

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- Narrow Gate: Involves surrendering personal control and desires to follow God's will.
- Wide Gate: Stresses independence, the pursuit of one's own way, and living as one sees fit without seeking divine guidance.

Verses 15-20: Warning not to follow false prophets who produce only bad fruit and thereby cut down and cast into the fire

Verses 21-23: Warning that not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord...

The chapter closes with a binary choice: 2 foundations

- These choices emphasize that the wide gate, though appealing in the moment, brings consequences that align with separation from God.
- Walking through the narrow is countercultural and uncomfortable, but it ultimately leads to life and truth.
- Which of these resonates with you most, or do you have a specific area where you reflect on these choices?

Summary:

1. Accessibility: The Easy vs. the Costly Path

- **Wide gate:** Easy to enter—no repentance, no change, no surrender.
 - *Illustration:* Like a downhill slide—no effort required, gravity pulls you.
- **Narrow gate:** Demands self-denial, repentance, and faith in Christ.
 - *Illustration:* Like squeezing through a turnstile at a stadium—you can't carry baggage; sin and pride must be left behind.

2. Companionship: The Crowd vs. the Few

- **Wide gate:** Many walk it; it's the popular choice.
 - *Illustration:* Think of a crowded freeway at rush hour—everyone seems to be going the same way, but it doesn't guarantee the right destination.
- **Narrow gate:** Few find it; discipleship is often lonely, but Christ walks with us.
 - *Illustration:* Like a narrow mountain trail—harder and less crowded, but it leads upward with a beautiful view at the top.

3. Destination: Destruction vs. Life

- **Wide gate:** Ends in destruction—spiritual ruin and eternal separation from God.
 - *Illustration:* A broad, busy road that suddenly ends in a cliff.
- **Narrow gate:** Leads to life—abundant life now and eternal joy with Christ.
 - *Illustration:* A narrow trail through a rugged path that opens into a breathtaking meadow.

Application: Jesus calls us to choose carefully. The easy road is not the right road. Following Him may be hard, but it leads to life.

- Jesus makes the choice clear: two gates, two roads, two destinations.
- And He gave us the choice.
- The wide gate is easy, crowded, and comfortable—but it ends in destruction.
- The narrow gate is harder, lonelier, and costly—but it leads to life.
- The wide road requires no choice at all, but today Christ calls you to choose the narrow gate that leads to life.
- So today, which gate will you enter?
 - Will you follow the crowd, or will you follow Christ?
 - The choice you make determines not just your journey, but your eternal destiny.”

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