

Matthew records the beginning of Jesus' public ministry (Matthew 4:17~Read)

John the Baptist introduced/announced Jesus' arrival and baptized Him; God the Father announced to earth, "this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased, hear ye him".

The Devil tempted Him 40 days, then after Jesus endured Satan's fiercest and worst attack, the Lord Jesus sent the defeated devil packing.

He then began to present Himself to Israel as their King and Promised Messiah. (4:17-23)

As His fame in Israel among the people grew and multitudes followed Him, it was time for Him, as King, to introduce the people TO His Kingdom.

The religiously lost scribes and Pharisees should have been preparing the people of Israel for the Kingdom of Heaven, but the only kingdom they were building was their own!

As multitudes began to follow Jesus; He went up into a mountain & taught His disciples & the multitudes about the Kingdom of heaven!

Beatitudes, (character of every child of the Kingdom of heaven), the salt of the earth and the light of the world; the influence of every child of the Kingdom of Christ in the world.

And then, He rightly represented the law and showed the people true righteousness in contrast to the self-righteous and hypocritical scribes and Pharisees!

The Lord then taught the people (and you and me) about the radically different love of every child of the Kingdom of Heaven; how to work and do acts of righteousness in the Kingdom, how to pray and communicate as a child of the Kingdom, and how to store up REAL treasure, (NOT in the world), but in the Kingdom of Heaven.

And then, why would anyone, who was a child of THIS GREAT KINGDOM, EVER WORRY or be concerned about being cared for by such a Great King who REIGNED over such a great Kingdom?

Now after ALL of the Lord's teaching on the manner of the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus, the King would now teach HOW ONE MUST ENTER INTO the Kingdom of Heaven!

All the way back in (Matthew 5:19) Jesus warned His disciples and the multitudes about the scribes and Pharisees, who were the teachers and preachers of God's Word, but who were also arrogant and very disobedient to God's Word. They were the worst examples to the people!

Matthew 5:20: "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the Kingdom of Heaven". Matthew 7:13-14

Disobedient, impenitent sinners like the scribes and Pharisees would in NO CASE enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew 23:13

I love how intensely personal the Lord addressed EVERY INDIVIDUAL HEARER who was up on that mountain! "ENTER YE in at the strait gate"

The call of God to LOST SINNERS is no different today, it is INTENSLY PERSONAL to any who will hear and obey the CALL of God in the gospel! If you're here today and lost; if you will turn from your sins to Christ in repentance, believing that Christ died and shed His blood for YOUR SINS, ENTRANCE into the Kingdom of Heaven WILL BE GRANTED to you by the KING HIMSELF! John 3:3, Matthew 25:31-34

Hebrews 3:7-8: Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness"

That is the great difficulty that lies between EVERY SINNER and the eternal Kingdom of Heaven, a naturally hard, earthy, and impenitent heart! If you're lost, you MUST NOT let this time pass you by...WHAT TIME? This gospel opportunity, THIS LITTLE SPACE that God has given you to come to Christ in repentance and faith, THIS day of salvation! This moment when God is extending grace to you in His patience and longsuffering! If you're a lost sinner, this day is a day of urgency!

That's why Paul wrote (2 Corinthians 6:2): "BEHOLD, NOW is the accepted time; BEHOLD, NOW is the day of salvation"

There is ONE WAY into the Kingdom of Heaven, you must ENTER in at the strait that leads to eternal life. BUT it is constricted, very narrow, and full of obstacles and difficulties in the way! Luke 13:22-24

Are you journeying through this life among "THE FEW" believers in Christ, who are in the narrow way, entering the strait gate that leads to eternal life? Or are you travelling with "THE MANY" who are lost, dead in their trespasses and sins on the spacious and wide road that leads to eternal destruction?

Christian, WE NEVER STOP STRIVING; we are ALWAYS ENTERING IN, daily at the strait gate!

One of the biggest obstacles (greatest difficulties) blocking the way into the Kingdom of Heaven and eternal life is THIS BROAD WAY that leads to destruction! (7:13)

The way to hell and eternal damnation is spacious! It's a wide and flat road, there are no difficulties in the way, you simply "go with the flow". There's room for all in the "broad way" that leads to destruction!

Since the fall, EVERY SINGLE SOUL that comes into this world is in "The Broad Way" that leads to destruction!

Genesis 6:5-13, Psalm 14:2-3, 1 John 5:19, Revelation 12:9, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4,

It's easy to "pitch your tent toward Sodom", it easy to go with the flow of the world and to love the world; it's easy to believe the lies of the wicked one, who is the god of this world; but if you would be freed from your sins and be freed from Satan's tyranny and captivity and granted eternal life; and if you would be ushered into the Kingdom of Christ, you MUST strive (agonize and labor) to enter the strait and narrow gate that LEADS to LIFE!

(V14): "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it"

I can't help but think of what the Lord said in (Matthew 7:7-8~Read).

He that ASKS, RECEIVES, He that SEEKS, FINDS, and He that KNOCKS, it SHALL BE OPENED!

What is the STRAIT GATE and the NARROW WAY? It is Christ Himself! If you would enter the Kingdom of Heaven you MUST COME through Christ!

Jesus IS THE DOOR, He is THE WAY, He is the ONE PATHWAY and NARROW WAY which leads to eternal life!

John 10:7-18, (There is One-fold, One-Shepherd, One-Narrow Way which leads to eternal life); John 14:6, Isaiah 43:11

This is PROOF that the Lord Jesus Christ IS GOD and the ONLY Saviour of sinners and the ONE STRAIT GATE that leads to eternal life!

Take heed to my voice if you're lost this morning, you are on the broad way the leads to destruction!

That's like floated in the current of a big wide river and being taken along without any effort downstream. If you're lost, you're in the taken down, further and further from God with every passing day!

You are enslaved to your sins, (and you are oblivious to it), you are enslaved to Satan, (and you offer to him no resistance), and you are enslaved to this present evil world, (but you love to have it so).

If you would enter the Kingdom of heaven, YOU MUST TURN AWAY from your SINS to which you are enslaved! You MUST believe the gospel of Christ if you would be delivered from the captivity and tyranny of Satan!

Colossians 1:13

And you MUST forsake the world and all its pleasures for the world that is to come, Christ's Eternal Kingdom! A new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness! And then, you must deny yourself, and take up YOUR cross and follow Christ, if you would be His disciple, and enter into the Kingdom of Heaven! Matthew 16:24-28

This is the NARROW WAY which leads to eternal life; THIS is HOW ENTRANCE into the Kingdom of Heaven is GRANTED!

Acts 4:10-12, 10:43, 1 Timothy 2:5-6, 1 John 4:10-15

