



We are about one-third of the way through our series... and we are still in the Sermon on the Mount. Let today be our reminder that Jesus is not just Savior, but He is also Lord. Jesus is a King with a very real Kingdom. He is the head of His government. He has prescribed order, and this order brings His blessing. This order, His government is blessing. To be ruled by Jesus is to be happy. To be submitted to Jesus is to be blessed.

I. REAL GRACE

- A. There is doctrine in the church today that describes a grace apart from His order. It's false through and through. His grace is released for us to come under the light yoke of His order. There is no grace separate from His commands. It does not exist. Rather it is the wolf of rebellion covered in the spiritual language of sheep's wool. Let us not be taken in by a false grace that is nothing more than lawlessness. Let us not be fooled ourselves. And let us not be found to be instructing and encouraging a message defiant to the wonderful yoke of the Gospel!
- B. Rather, let Christ conquer us through and through. Let Him shine light on all the darkest places of our hearts. Let's not justify areas of sin...let's expose them. Let's allow every motive to be sifted, remembering that the purpose of God in our lives will be realized only when we are made to be like Jesus. Only then, once while we are conquered, can we be led in triumphal procession with Christ. Let the Gospel of His love overcome in you every obstacle.

Matthew 28

[18] And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

[19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- C. This is our command. We are instructed to make disciples...baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, AND teaching them to obey and observe all of the commands of Jesus. I know today that talking about obedience isn't popular. It's rather out of style to preach a Gospel with requirements. We would feel more comfortable peddling a story of Jesus that resembles our beloved Santa Claus. We give Him our list of wants, and just like promised our Jesus delivers spiritual gifts through our dirty chimneys. The problem is Santa is not real. And neither is this version of Christ. It's a fairy tale. A very lucrative fairy tale... but altogether false.
- D. As a steward of the Gospel, and that's what we all are, we are required to disciple people in the commands of Christ. There is no other form of discipleship. The things of the Spirit, will not break the command of the Son. The things of the Spirit will highlight the commands of the Son. In an age where we desire a move of the Spirit, we desire a supernatural move from heaven, we must be able to recognize a counterfeit. How can we test and be sure of the currency of heaven? The answer is simple, we must know the real! We must know Jesus. Don't you know that the Great Falling Away (Matthew 24) will not be about loyalty to the devil, but rather loyalty to false thoughts about Jesus?
- E. Instead of looking at every theological interpretation of the scriptures, we are taking this time to look at the Man himself. We are looking at His words. We are going straight to the source. You can



choose to disregard Him...but my counsel is that you would pay attention to what He says. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He will not mislead you. If you disregard Him, you do so at your own risk. He is the King. May we all be reminded and sobered by the reality of who He is, and the price He has paid to give us grace.

II. # 18- ASK, SEEK, AND KNOCK

Matthew 7

[7] "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. [8] For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. [9] Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? [10] Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? [11] If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

- A. If there has ever been a case made for the House of Prayer this is it. What could be more powerful than the corporate expression of asking, seeking and knocking? Powerful because of the promised answer, the promised response.
- B. There seems to be a growing intensity in the words, and an increased manifestation in the answer. All who ask receive. All who seek find. And all who knock have the door opened to them. Martin Luther said, "Pray as if everything depends on God, then work as though everything depends on you."

John 15

[7] If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. [8] By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

- C. We've been commanded to ask, seek and knock. For what are you asking? In what are you seeking? How are you knocking? The answer will bring glory to God. Our fruitfulness as Sons and Daughters brings God pleasure.

Luke 11

[5] And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, [6] for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; [7] and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? [8] I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. [9] And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. [10] For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. [11] What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; [12] or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? [13] If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

III. #19-DO UNTO OTHERS



Matthew 7

[12] “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

- A. This is commonly called the Golden Rule. Jesus didn't invent this teaching, in fact it's handed down from the God as Israel leaves captivity from Egypt. And if we were inclined to do it, there would be no more need of any other law. Isn't that remarkable? The fact that we aren't inclined to do it demands more written code. I mean does anyone here enjoy being stolen from? How about deceived and lied to? Does anyone here want to be oppressed later today?

Leviticus 19

[9] “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. [10] And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

[11] “You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. [12] You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

[13] “You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning. [14] You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

[15] “You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. [16] You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

[17] “You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. [18] You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

- B. This is probably the most repeated command in the entire Bible. What does that mean to really live this out?

James 2

[14] What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? [15] If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, [16] and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? [17] So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

[18] But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. [19] You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! [20] Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? [21] Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? [22] You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; [23] and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. [24] You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. [25] And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works



when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? [26] For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

- C. This letter from James was written about 2000 years ago, but it's commentary could be from today. How do we reconcile the free gift of grace and faith alone in Christ, with the clear command of Jesus Himself? It's as if we have to choose between believing in Christ for salvation and actually following Jesus. Salvation, right standing and relationship with God is both, and. The right position is a gift from God. But the relationship is ours to tend. Just like Jesus is both fully God and fully man, should we be surprised that the fullness of His salvation is worked in us through the same wondrous paradox.

IV. # 20-CHOOSE THE NARROW WAY

Matthew 7

[13] "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. [14] For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

- A. This is referred to both as a gate and a road; which seems to make more sense to you? There is an entry point, and then there is a process. Jesus describes salvation as both a difficult point of entry and a difficult journey...

THE NARROW GATE- By Arthur Pink, theologian

- B. **FIRST**, the acceptance of those teachings of truth, of duty, of happiness, which were unfolded by Christ—the honest and actual receiving into the heart of His holy, searching, flesh-withering instructions. This is like a person, with great difficulty, forcing his way through a very narrow entrance way. I say "with great difficulty," for Christ's precepts and commandments are, to the last degree, unpalatable to an unrenewed heart, and cannot be willingly and gladly received without a rigid denial of *self* and relinquishment of sinful pleasures, pursuits, and interests. Christ has plainly warned us that it is impossible for a man to serve *two masters*. *Self* must be repudiated, and *Christ* must be received as "the Lord" (Colossians 2:6), or He will not save us.
- C. **SECOND**, a deliberate abandoning of the Broad Road, or the flesh-pleasing mode of life. Until this has been done, there is no salvation possible for any sinner. Christ Himself taught this plainly in Luke 15—the "prodigal" must *leave* the "far country" before he could journey to the Father's House! The same pointed truth is taught again in James 4:8-10, "Draw near to God—and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord—and He will lift you up."
- D. Ah, my friend, to really and actually enter this "Narrow Gate" is no easy matter! For that reason the Lord bade the people "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life!" (John 6:27).



- E. Those words do not picture salvation as a thing of *simple* and *easy* attainment. Ponder also Christ's emphatic exhortation in Luke 13:24 "Make every effort to enter through the narrow gate, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to." That He should utter such a statement, clearly implies that there are formidable difficulties and obstacles to be overcome, and that slothful *nominal professors* will surely not enter in.
- F. And how are we to "strive" so as to "enter" the Narrow Gate? The general answer is, "lawfully" (2 Timothy 2:5). We are to earnestly cry to Christ for help from those foes which are seeking to overcome us. We are to come constantly to the Throne of Grace, that we may there find grace to help us to repudiate and turn away with loathing from everything which is abhorred by God, even though it involves our cutting off of a right hand and plucking out of a right eye; and grace to help us do those things which He has commanded.

THE NARROW WAY (OR ROAD)

- G. Just as entering the "Narrow Gate" signifies the heart's acceptance of Christ's holy teaching, so to walk along the "Narrow Way" means for the heart and life to be constantly regulated thereby. Walking along the Narrow Way denotes a steady perseverance in faith and obedience to the Lord Jesus; overcoming all opposition, rejecting every temptation to forsake the path of fidelity to Him. It is called the "Narrow Way" because all self-pleasing and self-seeking is shut out!
- H. The Narrow Way must be followed—no matter how much it may militate against my worldly interests. It is right here that the testing point is reached. Unto the natural man, it is much easier and far more pleasant—to indulge the flesh and follow our worldly propensities. The Broad Road, where the flesh is allowed "liberty" —under the pretense of the Christian's not "being under the law" —is easy, smooth, and attractive; but it ends in "destruction!" Though the "Narrow Way" leads to life, only FEW tread it.
- I. Multitudes make a profession and claim to be saved—but their lives give no evidence that they are "strangers and pilgrims" here on earth, or that their "treasure" is in heaven. They are afraid of being thought narrow and peculiar, strict and puritanical. Satan has deceived them—they imagine that they can get to heaven by an easier route than by denying self, taking up their cross daily, and following Christ!
- J. There are multitudes of religionists who are attempting to combine the two "ways," making the best of both worlds and serving two masters. They wish to gratify *self* in time—and enjoy the happiness of Heaven in eternity. Crowds of nominal Christians are deluding themselves into believing that they can do so—but they are terribly deceived! A profession which is not verified by mortifying the deeds of the body in the power of the Spirit (Romans 8:13), is vain. A faith which is not evidenced by complete submission to Christ, is only the faith of demons. A love which does not keep Christ's commandments, is an imposition (John 14:23). A claim to being a Christian, where there is no real yieldedness to the will of God, is daring presumption. The reason why so few will enter Eternal Life—is because the multitudes are not seeking it in the way of God's appointing! None seek it aright—but those who pass through the Narrow



Gate, and who, despite many discouragements and falls, continue to press forward along the Narrow Way. (Arthur Pink)

V. #21-BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS

Matthew 7

[15] "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

[16] You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

[17] So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. [18] A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. [19] Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. [20] Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

- A. They are those who teach that Heaven may be reached without treading the Narrow Way! They are those who loudly insist that eternal life may be obtained on much easier terms. They come in "sheep's clothing"—they appear (to undiscerning souls) to exalt Christ, to emphasize His precious blood, to magnify God's grace. BUT they do not insist upon repentance; they fail to tell their hearers that nothing but a broken heart which hates sin, can truly believe in Christ. They do not teach that a *saving* faith is a living one which purifies the heart (Acts 15:9) and overcomes the world (1 John 5:4).
- B. These "false prophets" are known by their "fruits," the primary reference being to their "converts"—the fruits of their fleshly labors. Their "converts" are on the Broad Road, which is not the path of *open* wickedness and vice—but of a religion which pleases the flesh! It is that "way which seems right unto a man—but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). Those who are on this Broad Road (this way which "seems right" to so many), have a *head-knowledge* of the Truth—but they *walk* not in it. The "Narrow Way" is bounded by the commandments and precepts of Scripture; the Broad Road is that path which has broken out beyond the bounds of Scripture. Titus 2:11-12 supplies the test as to which "way" we are in: "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world." (Arthur Pink)
- C. I'm here to feed the sheep. I understand that we will not attract or keep a crowd of carnal people. But Jesus has asked me to feed His sheep... And that is what I will do. On time, and in order, you are receiving His words. I am sincerely trying to walk them out before you. I am presenting myself under His rod (Psalm 23) and allowing Him to inspect my life. Jesus is a good and faithful leader, more than that...He is a good and faithful King. Allow His words to penetrate and search your heart. Welcome His conviction. Embrace the narrow way of real life. And you will be saved!