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The Parables of Jesus Christ: Two Gates, Two Goals

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THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

PARABLE FOUR: Two Gates, Two Goals (Mt. 7:13-14)

SURVEY

Jesus said only a few will find and travel that narrow highway leading to life, while most will travel the wide, broad one leading to destruction.

SIGNIFICANCE

- This marks the first of three instances during His Sermon on the Mount where Jesus contrasts opposing entities:
 1. The narrow gate versus the wide gate (Mt. 7:13-14)
 2. The good trees versus the bad trees (Mt. 7:16-20)
 3. The true disciples versus the false disciples (Mt. 7:21-23)
 4. The wise builder versus the foolish builder (Mt. 7:24-27)

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the food, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Josh. 24:15)

- A number of metaphors can be found in the Bible which vividly describe these two destinies:

1. Right offering versus wrong offering

"And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell." (Gen. 4:3-5)

2. Life versus death

"See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil." (Deut. 30:15)

3. Blessings versus cursings

a. Blessings (Deut. 28:2-14)

b. Cursings (Deut. 28:15-68)

4. Fruitful trees versus worthless chaff (Psa. 1)

5. God versus Baal

"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word." (1 Kings 18:21)

6. Light versus darkness

"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."
(1 John 1:5-7)

7. Christ versus Antichrist

"Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." (1 John 4:2-3)