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

1. Matthew emphasizes the humanity of Christ – Mt. 1:21

2. He also emphasizes His establishment of God’s kingdom – Mt. 4:17

I. The Ethics of the Living life – 12 “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

a. The golden rule of life seeks true justice

• Notice how the words are phrased here “whatever you *wish* that others would do to you, do also to them”. This is the word of God instructing us on how to live. This controls us in how we live. This teaches us how we should live. The way you want others to treat you is the way you must treat others. With no expectation of return.

° 1 A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight. Proverbs 11:1

° 11 A just balance and scales are the Lord’s; all the weights in the bag are his work. Proverbs 16:11

b. The golden rule will promote true love

1. It will promote living right instead of wrong

• The golden rule is a guide in which you apply this, you will have a long and happy life. It consists first of how you respond to others. This eliminates any selfishness one has; this causes us to act on the behavior of others, and then others will respond back to you in kindness. But this will also work in reverse if you do others wrong you will get wronged in return. You will reap what you sow.

° 7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Galatians 6:7, 8

2. It will promote others to live right – helping others, caring for others, giving to God and others

• Once you live the example of the golden rule, others will then see the light that shines in you and will want to have this light shine in them.

° 14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16

3. It will promote God’s word for us to live right

• This comes straight out of the Law of Moses. Christ took this and used it to teach that His teaching was just like and just as powerful as Deuteronomy 10:12-13.

° 12 “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good? Deuteronomy 10:12, 13

c. It will promote true love with a positive influence

• It is more than not doing wrong, but I will love to do things right. I love reading and studying the word and sharing it with others; I love to teach my grandson on how to live the golden rule; I love to live the life of Christ; I love to tell the wonderful story of Jesus and His love.

° 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Ephesians 4:15, 16

II. The Ethics of Spiritual living – 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. The Spiritual life has two gates: Wide and Narrow

1. What makes this gate broad is its accessibility

• Everyone wants to be in the broad gate popular train. It is an easier life to live than the narrow gate. It is the normal way of living. They have a motto here, “Get in the broad line highway, everyone is doing it”. If you are not in the large gate access line, you must be a racist, bigot, LGBTQ,HBO,PARAMOUNT+ haters.

° 22 “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! 23 Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. Luke 6:22-23

2. Why is this narrow gate so small – it’s free will

• Next to God giving His Son Jesus Christ for our salvation and everything that goes with it, is a man’s free will is the second greatest gift (I believe) that has been given to mankind. God’s grace is a gift He gives that we don’t deserve, but free will gives us a choice to accept His great gift or reject it. God has always given us free will. It was given in the garden, and it is given in God’s Grace. It is your choice to accept it or reject it.

° 15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Genesis 2:15-17

° 14 “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:14, 15

b. The Spiritual life has two ways: Easy and Hard

1. What makes this gate easy is no accountability

• We love to have sex without being responsible for taking care of the baby; it is called abortion. We love staying at home without going to work; it’s called government welfare programs. We love getting that free money without earning it, it is called government stimulus. We don’t want to be accountable for our own actions, so we say that I was called a name, or I was bullied, and that’s why I shot up a school, church, or daycare. It is someone else fault before mine. This is nothing new, Adam and Eve did this in the Garden of Eden.

° 12 The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” Genesis 3:12, 13

2. What makes this gate hard is its responsibility

• We as Christians get lambasted for being hypocrites, by the very ones that will never try to live a Christian life because of their fear of failure. Christians are not perfect, and many a ministry will be lost because a pastor’s imperfection, but while the world will not forgive, God can and will. We still deal with sin. The difference is that our faith is held to scrutiny more than any other faith. God forbid if we should talk about the Prophet Muhammad’s marring underage children. But a Pastor – let’s make Him and His family look bad when he is caught cheating. Let’s not talk about the underground sex life of the Morman Church (which is horrendous) but we have no problem exposing the Pastor’s wife having an affair with the pool boy. In both cases the Pastor’s took responsibility, asked for forgiveness and is fixing their marriages and families the best as they can.

° 4 But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. 5 For each will have to bear his own load. 6 One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. Galatians 6:4-6

c. The Spiritual life has two ends: Destruction and Life

1. There is a hell that is called the second death

• I believe that we don’t teach this subject enough, because of the harsh reality that comes with it. And that is the doctrine of hell. The road you decide to take here will lead you to the road of destruction that leads to hell.

° 13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:13-15

2. There is a heaven that leads to eternal life

• We spend a lot of time telling people of a place called heaven. There are two views that are popular today about heaven. The first view is from the Oprah doctrine and that view is simple and false. It is that everyone gets to go to heaven. There the other view is straight from the word of God, only a few will find it.

° 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:22, 23

d. The Spiritual life has two travelers: the wise and the unwise

1. It is the wise Christian that will follow the right road

• This road is not popular. It’s not a main road, but it is a road that is less traveled. Some may even call it a dirty road. Not because of its dirty looks, but because of its backward ways, that most people don’t follow. This road is the road that God has chosen us to follow. It may not be popular but it sure is reliable.

° 26 And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. Acts 9:26-28

2. It is the unwise sinner that will follow the wrong road

• The road of an unwise man is paved with good intention. It is paved with a smooth road that will lead away from God, it is paved with many exits that will lead you away from Christ, it is paved with many stops that will lead you in a different direction other than salvation. This road is traveled by many, it will never go in the right direction, it will never follow the ways of God, but it will follow in the ways of fallen man. Me personally I will take the dirt road.

° 15 Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, 16 but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet’s madness. 2 Peter 2:15-16

e. The Spiritual life has two decisions: Rejecters and Seekers

1. Seekers are totally committed to Jesus Christ

• They may have some bumps in the road, and they may have had to slow down their journey, but they have never quit or given up their love and relationship with and for Christ. They “have decided to follow Jesus no turning back no turning back”.

° 21 Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, 22 and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. Matthew 10:21-23

2. The Rejecters will never commit to Jesus

• You have your part-time rejecters that only come to church on Easter and Christmas. You have your full-time rejecters that will never give worship to or give acknowledgement to Christ for any reason. Both are complete rejecters of Christ.

° 15 “ ‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! 16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. Revelation 3:15, 16