



Departure – Where the Journey Begins

Matthew 7; Proverbs 4

Matthew 7:13-14 (HCSB)

“Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.

I. The Evidence of the Right Road

Deuteronomy 8:2-11 (ESV)

“And you shall remember **the whole way** that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, ...that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in **his ways** and by fearing him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, ... And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today.”

Psalms 25:4, 10 (NIV)

“Show me your **ways**, O LORD, teach me your **paths**... All the **ways** of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant.”

Psalms 119:35, 105 (NIV)

“Direct me in the **path** of your commands, for there I find delight. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my **path**.”

Proverbs 4:11-27 (NIV)

I guide you in **the way** of wisdom and lead you along straight **paths**. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. Do not set foot on **the path** of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your **way**.

The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. But **the way** of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble. My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; ...Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. Make level **paths** for your feet and take only ways that are firm. Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

Proverbs 21:2 (ESV)

Every **way** of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the heart.

II. The Examples from the Right Road

Acts 9:1-2 (NIV)

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to **the Way**, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

Hebrews 11:8-10 (NIV)

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; ... For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Job 23:8-12 (NIV)

"But if I go to the east, he is not there; if I go to the west, I do not find him. When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him. But he knows **the way** that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold. My feet have closely followed **his steps**; I have kept to **his way** without turning aside. I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread."

III. The Entrance to the Right Road

Matthew 7:13-14 (HCSB)

“Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.

John 10:9 (NIV)

I am **the gate**; whoever enters through me will be saved.

John 14:6 (ESV)

Jesus said, “I am **the way** and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Proverbs 14:12 (ESV)

There is **a way** that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.