

November 8, 2020

**Series Title: The Beautiful Way**

**Sermon Title: Only Two Ways**

Matthew 5.17-20 (Pew Bible Page: 810)

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We have the awesome privilege of making all kinds of choices in life, both small ones and big ones. Will we eat cereal or eggs for breakfast? Will we play soccer or ice hockey? Will we remain in this geographical area or move elsewhere? Will we pursue this career or that career? Will we study at Simon Fraser University or the University of British Columbia? We face a myriad of choices every day. BUT, one choice is critical and we have to choose. Staying in the place of indecision is already deciding. We must choose one path or the other.

At the end of Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount, He presents two ways "in the woods of life" as it were, which on the surface are very similar, but one of the ways is poisonous. There are two paths "in the woods": one has a narrow gate, the other a wide gate. There are two trees "in the woods": one bears good fruit, the other bad fruit. There are two houses "in the woods": one has a solid foundation, the other is built on sand. Both ways appear to be good, but one is poison. Jesus says, "Choose." What are the two ways?

If you are a follower of Jesus:

- 1. Everything in the Hebrew Scriptures points to Jesus.**
- 2. Jesus will bring everything in the Hebrew Scriptures to their full realization.**
- 3. There is a way that makes righteousness humanly attainable and manageable.**
- 4. The other way never points to Jesus. It is the way of religion and it leads to death.**

Reflection Questions:

1. Is your way marked by the way of Jesus or the way of religion?
2. Are you focused on your own personal righteousness, striving for God's acceptance, or are you reaching out to others in love, knowing that God knows and loves you?
3. Are you motivated by a striving for personal perfection or is your life motivated by God's undeserved grace and immeasurable love toward you?
4. What would Jesus have you change?

