

**Harmony of the Gospels**  
Part 37  
**“Enter by the Narrow Gate”**

**Max Jukes** born in 1700, lived in New York

He did not believe in Jesus Christ or that following him was important. He married a woman who also did not believe, she followed the occult.

Max refused to take his children to church, even though they often asked to go.

**Max had 1,026 descendants.**

- ☞ 310 were homeless.
- ☞ 440 wrecked their lives through unrestrained self indulgent behavior.
- ☞ 130 went to jail - 7 for murder, average sentence: 13 years.
- ☞ 600 became alcoholics.
- ☞ 60 were habitual thieves.
- ☞ 190 became prostitutes.
- ☞ 20 became tradesmen, 10 of whom learned their trade in prison.

So far, Max’s family has cost the state of New York in excess of \$1 million 250 thousand dollars.

His family made no contribution to society whatsoever.

**Jonathan Edwards was born in 1703**, also lived in New York, at the same time as Max.

Loved the Lord and married to a woman of like character. He was 24 and she was 17. On their wedding night they committed their marriage to the Lord.

**Their 929 descendants included**

- ☞ 300 Ministers, missionaries and theological professors.
- ☞ 100 University professors.
- ☞ 100 Attorneys.
- ☞ 75 Authored a Book.
- ☞ 30 Judges,
- ☞ 1 Dean of a law school.
- ☞ 60 Physicians,

- ☞ 1 Dean of a medical school.
- ☞ 3 Mayors of large cities.
- ☞ 14 Presidents of universities.
- ☞ 3 State Governors.
- ☞ 1 Controller of the US Treasury.
- ☞ 1 Vice-President of the United States of America.

His family never cost the State one cent, but instead contributed immeasurably to the lives of millions.

### [Matthew 7](#)

13 "enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

14 "because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

The picture that Jesus is giving us here is not a choice between a broad way that is lots of fun and a narrow way that is boring.

- ☞ **The Picture** that Jesus is speaking of here is that of a Funnel.
- ☞ **If you enter a Funnel** at the Broad end, it **starts off wide** and fun, but leads to a narrow place of destruction.
- ☞ **If you enter the Funnel** at the Narrow end, it **might start off difficult**, but it ends up in eternal life.

### **Pictures of Funnel**

The Wide way, is the world's way, where everything promised is full of fun, but in the end of this life, it comes to emptiness and destruction.

**The Narrow Way is where Jesus is. He said that in this world you will have Tribulation, but because Jesus has overcome this world, when your life is over, so also are all your trials, you enter the never ending eternal life Jesus promises.**

### [John 14:6](#)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

### [Proverbs 16:25](#)

There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

### **Life is about the choices that we make.**

- ☞ **Everyone here** has made bad choices.
- ☞ **Some of us** are still paying for some of those choices even today.

### **Matthew 21:28-31**

28 Jesus said: “But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’

29 He answered and said, “**I will not,**’ but **afterward he regretted it and went.**

30 Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, “**I go, sir,’ but he did not go.**

31 Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said to Him, “The first.

#### **The first son when he was called by His father, refused to go.**

- ⊕ **Then later,** he changed his mind, he regretted his first choice, went and did what his father asked him to do.

The second son, when he was called by his father, said “**yes of course I will go...**’

- ⊕ **But then he did not go,** his yes was not really a yes, he said it, but he didn’t mean it, the evidence was that he did not do it.

#### **Which one, Jesus said, did the will of his father?**

- ⊕ **The one that at first made mistakes,** bad choices, but afterwards, **changed his mind** and went and did what his father said to do.

Jesus said that we can begin to make right choices today.

- ⊕ **We can rebuild** the walls and gates of the city of our life.
- ⊕ **We just have to** take the first step and begin.

#### **In the Book of Nehemiah, the entire nation of Israel has been held captive in Babylon.**

- ⊕ **They were captive in Babylon** because they made the choice as a nation to no longer follow the Lord.
- ⊕ **But in the Book of Nehemiah,** the 70 years of their captivity is just about over.
- ⊕ **The Lord has called one man,** Nehemiah to lead a group of people back to the city of Jerusalem and rebuild the city.

But before the city can be rebuilt, the walls of the city and her gates must be repaired.

- ⊕ **The walls** of the city represented her **protection** and her **security.**
- ⊕ **The gates** represented the opportunities for **blessing and Righteousness..**

### **Psalms 118:19**

Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go through them, And I will praise the LORD.

**Your life is a city, and around it there needs to be built walls, for protection and for your own security.**

- ☞ **These walls** are built **by the choices** that you make in your life.
- ☞ **The gates** you build and go through are also your choices.
- ☞ **The gates** you go through, determine your blessing and Righteousness.

Nehemiah, by the direction of the Holy Spirit, gives us an incredible illustration of the importance of building a **strong wall** around our life, and **the gates** we should be going through.

- ☞ **That is also** what Jesus said, Life is about choosing the narrow gate or the wide gate.

**There were 10 gates to the old city of Jerusalem that Nehemiah returned to Israel from Babylon to rebuild:**

- ☞ **The description** of those 10 gates and the order that they were built, is detailed in Nehemiah chapter 3

### **Nehemiah 3:1**

Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests and built (The first Gate) the Sheep Gate; they consecrated it and hung its doors

1. The Sheep Gate..
2. The Fish Gate..
3. The Old Gate.
4. The Valley Gate.
5. The Dung Gate..
6. The Fountain Gate.
7. The Water Gate.
8. The Horse Gate.
9. The East Gate.
10. The Judgment Gate.

### **Nehemiah 3**

1 Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests and built **the Sheep Gate**; they consecrated it and hung its doors. They built as far as the Tower of the Hundred, and consecrated it, then as far as the Tower of Hananel.

3 Also the sons of Hassenaah built **the Fish Gate**; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and bars.

6 Moreover Jehoiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired **the Old Gate**; they laid its beams and hung its doors, with its bolts and bars.

13 Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired **the Valley Gate**. They built it, hung its doors with its bolts and bars, and repaired a thousand cubits of the wall as far as the Refuse Gate.

14 Malchijah the son of Rechab, leader of the district of Beth Haccerem, repaired **the Refuse Gate**; he built it and hung its doors with its bolts and bars.

15 Shallun the son of Col-hozeh, leader of the district of Mizpah, repaired **the Fountain Gate**; he built it, covered it, hung its doors with its bolts and bars, and repaired the wall of the Pool of Shelah by the King's Garden, as far as the stairs that go down from the City of David.

26 Moreover the Nethinim who dwelt in Ophel made repairs as far as the place in front of **the Water Gate** toward the east, and on the projecting tower.

28 Beyond **the Horse Gate** the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house.

29 After them Zadok the son of Immer made repairs in front of his own house. After him Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of **the East Gate**, made repairs.

31 After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the Nethinim and of the merchants, in front of **the Inspection Gate**, and as far as the upper room at the corner.

**Since Jesus said that life is about choices, and going through the right gates, it is not an accident that the Holy Spirit places these 10 gates here in Nehemiah.**

- ☞ **Even the order** that these gates are in **is extremely important**, for their order is the exact order that we should make choices in our own life.

## **The meaning of the ten gates of Jerusalem.**

### **Sheep Gate**

It is not an accident that the Holy Spirit places the “**Sheep Gate**” first.

- ☞ **It is called the Sheep Gate** because it was the gate where the lambs were brought into the temple area for the sacrifice.
- ☞ **The first thing** that must happen in the life of a person, is to come through the gate of Jesus Sacrifice as “*The Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world.*”
- ☞ **You cannot** go through **any of the other gates** in life until you first make the choice to come through Jesus

### **John 10:7-9**

7 Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture

### **Fish Gate**

The fish gate was the next gate in the wall around Jerusalem.

- ☞ **It was called the fish gate** because it was through this gate that the fishermen of Galilee brought their fish to be sold.

### **Matthew 4:19**

Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

**The next thing that Jesus calls us to do after He saves us, is to begin catching men**

**and women.**

- ☞ **It is not your job** though, to clean them up.
- ☞ **Jesus said:** “You catch them, I’ll clean them”.

### **Old Gate**

The Old Gate represent the fact that now that we have been “Born Again”, and we have the Holy spirit living inside of us, and we really want to please the Lord, we also know that we have the “old Man” the flesh, our body that we still live in.

### **Romans 6:6**

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin".

### **Galatians 5:17**

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish

**One of the first thing that a new believer in Jesus Christ discovers, is that no matter how much they love the Lord, they will still make a lot of mistakes and still sin all of the time.**

- ☞ **Learning to deal with the flesh** and bring it under the control of the Spirit, is one of the most painful and difficult times in the life of the believer.

Notice that this “**Old Gate**” is just before the “**Valley Gate**” and “**Dung Gate**”, Descending downward...

### **Valley Gate**

As you look at the illustration of the placement of the gates, you will see that there is a great distance between the “**Old Gate**” and the “**Valley Gate**”.

- ☞ **When you first come to a knowledge** of how wonderful Jesus is, and all that He has done to forgive you and give you eternal life, you enter what we call “**the Honeymoon**” period.
- ☞ **You have about a year**, give or take a few months, where you are not enduring any great trials, but are enjoying your new relationship with Jesus.
- ☞ **Everything is new** and fresh and wonderful...

Then the “**Valley Gate**” comes next.

- ☞ **The Valley gate** was used to enter the “Hinnom Valley” below Jerusalem.
- ☞ **The Valley gate** represents a gate that all of us **MUST** go through before we can enter the other gates.
- ☞ **The Valley gate** is the gate of **trials and difficulties**.

### **Psalms 23:4**

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me;

- ☞ **When we pass through this gate**, we are humbled, and emptied of ourselves.
- ☞ **It is as we pass through this gate** of trials, and we are humbled and emptied of self, that **we really begin to grow**.
- ☞ **This is all natural** and a part of every believer in Jesus life.
- ☞ **Out of this gate** we begin to produce fruit.

### **Dung (Refuse) Gate**

From the Valley gate to this next gate, the Dung or refuse gate, is also a great distance.

- ☞ **The Dung gate** was where they took all their garbage and burned it in the “*Valley of Hinnom*” below.
- ☞ **The Valley of Hinnom** was the garbage dump for Israel.

### **Hinnom Valley “A’ Dung Gate “B”**

In the Book of 2 Kings, the Hinnom Valley was the place where the Canaanites, the former occupants of Israel, offered their sons and daughters up to the god Molech.

- ☞ **Molech** was a giant cast iron god that was hollow inside.
- ☞ **A fire** was made at the bottom of Molech and the heat ran up into the outstretched arms of Molech.
- ☞ **The pagans placed** their new born babies onto the scalding hot arms of Molech as an offering to this god of pleasure.

### **Pictures of Molech**

- ☞ **In 2 Kings**, the Lord commanded Israel that they should not follow the example of these people and offer their sons and daughter to Molech.
- ☞ **Sadly**, Israel did burn their children on Molechs arms.

### **2 Kings 23:10**

And he defiled Topheth, which is in **the Valley of the Son of Hinnom**, that no man might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech.

**In the Hinnom Valley, the fires of the garbage dump were never permitted to go out, they burned night and day...**

This garbage dump in the “**Valley of Hinnom**” is the place that Jesus used to described what Hell was Like: “**A Place where the fires never go out.**”

### **Mark 9:45-46**

45 ... hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—  
46 where “Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.”

This next gate, “**The Dung or Garbage Gate**”, is where the Lord begins to get rid of all the garbage in our life.

- ☞ **You will notice** in the illustration that this Dung Gate it at a great sharp turn in the walls of Israel.

### **Map of Walls**

- ☞ **By you going through** the Dung gate, we are getting rid of all the garbage in our life and notice that it is “Turning a sharp corner” in your walk with Jesus.
- ☞ **It is a great day** of victory when we decide that we need to get some of the useless things out of our life and make a total commitment to Jesus.

Notice that these last 3 gates, **The Old Gate, the Valley Gate, the Dung gate** are all moving “**Downward**”.

- ☞ **This is the part** of your life in Jesus Chris that is the hardest.
- ☞ **It is where** the most trials happen.
- ☞ **It is where we get humbled** and emptied or our self.
- ☞ **It is where the Garbage** get eliminated.

Notice also though, that right after this downward trend, all of these trials and emptying of self, **this turning of the corner**, we begin to go upward now, things are going to get better!

### **Fountain Gate**

Notice that the “**Fountain Gate**” is located very close to the “**Dung Gate**”.

- ☞ **Right after** we make the decision to go through this narrow and difficult gate of **getting all the garbage out of our life**, we come to a Fountain.
- ☞ **This Fountain** is speaking of that fountain of “*Living Waters*” that Jesus described:

### **John 4:14**

but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

It is at this place **that your life begins to be refreshed**, renewed, overflowing with good works, fruits of the Spirit, and Joy.

## Water Gate

The water gate represents the “**Word of God**” in your life and the effects of a serious study in the Word of God.

### [Ephesians 5:26](#)

that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of **water by the word**,

It is not a coincidence that the “**Water Gate**” is located right next to the “**Fountain Gate**”.

- ☞ **Jesus flowing out into our lives** by the Holy Spirit in a Fountain, and the Water of the Word of God, always are working together.
- ☞ **The Fountain of the Spirit** and The Water of the Word, Cleanse us, Fill us, Refresh us, Instruct us, and Empower us.

## Horse Gate

This is where it really get’s exciting, because I believe these last 3 gates are “**Prophetic**”, speaking of **the Rapture, the Return of the Lord** and all of us finally being with Jesus in Heaven.

- ☞ **The Horse Gate** was the place where Kings would ride into Jerusalem.

## Horse Gate Picture

- ☞ **This Gate for us** is the place where after all the trials, and garbage and then the refreshing, empowering and Using of Jesus in our life, we finally get to see our King.
- ☞ **We forget sometimes** in the midst of all we are going through, that this isn’t going to last much longer, Jesus us coming for us soon!

### [Revelation 19:11-14](#)

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

Jesus riding our of heaven to return to the earth at the end of the Great Tribulation Period.

## Picture of Jesus riding out of heaven

- ☞ **Notice** that these last 3 gates are very close to each other.
- ☞ **This is because** the timing of the last events of these 3 gates is close together.

## East Gate

The next gate is the “**East Gate**”, this is the gate that Jesus will come through on His way to the Temple, when He returns to the earth the Second time.

### Ezekiel 44:1-2

1 Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary which faces toward the east, but it was shut.

2 And the LORD said to me, “**This gate shall be shut**; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it, because the LORD God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut

### **New Temple built on Temple Mount Across from East Gate**



Currently located on the Temple mount in Israel is the “**Dome of the Rock**”, or “**Mosque of Omar**”, which is one of the Holiest sites for Islam.

- ⊕ **Many have said** that this dome of the rock must be destroyed to make way for the New Temple that is Predicted to be built during the beginning of the 7 year Tribulation.
- ⊕ **Jesus will return to the Earth**, along with all of us, at the end of the 7 year Tribulation and will go through this Golden Gate and into the Newly built Temple.

### Malachi 3:1

...the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple,

**As of today, this East Gate has been Bricked closed.**

- ⊕ **In 1530 A. D.**, the Muslim conquerors of Israel had read of the Jewish Messiah coming to Israel through the East Gate, so they had it permanently sealed shut.
- ⊕ **A cemetery** was planted in front of it thinking that the Jewish Messiah could not set foot in a cemetery and therefore would not be able to come.
- ⊕ **Ezekiel prophesied** the shutting of this gate itself around 600 B.C. -- that it would be shut "because the LORD (Jehovah or Yahweh), the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut."

### Ezekiel 44:1

Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary which faces toward the east, **but it was shut**.

### **Inspection Gate or The Miphkad Gate**

- ⊕ **The root meaning** of this gate is “To Muster for Judgment”.
- ⊕ **Some who have written** on the meaning of this gate, have said that it is the Bema Seat Judgment of Jesus for Believers.
- ⊕ **The problem** with that is that it is in the wrong place to be the Bema Seat.
- ⊕ **It should have been before** the “*Horse Gate*”, if this was true.
- ⊕ **The Bema seat** takes place before Jesus returns to the earth.

### **This gate is about Judgment.**

- ⊞ **Israel** will now have accepted Jesus as their Messiah.
- ⊞ **The Nations of the earth** will be separated and Judged and made ready to enter the Millennium.
- ⊞ **The Great White throne Judgment** of all those who have rejected Jesus as Savior, will be coming at the end of the Millennium.

For us as believers in Jesus Christ, we will be in our new glorified bodies and we will be dispatched throughout the earth to rule with Jesus for 1,000 years.

### **Matthew 7**

13 "enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

14 "because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

### **A happy and fulfilling life, Jesus said, is about going through the right "Gates".**

- ⊞ **Start with the right one**, The Sheep Gate, come through Jesus.
- ⊞ **Then go through the Fish Gate**, begin to share Jesus with other.
- ⊞ **The "Old Gate"** is where you will have to deal with the reality of your flesh and the old life, and overcome it.
- ⊞ **Then the "Dung Gate"**, where you get all the garbage out of your life...
- ⊞ **The "Fountain Gate"** comes right after the Dung Gate, where Jesus becomes a fountain of Living water in your life.
- ⊞ **The "Water Gate"** is where you become a serious student of the Word of God and begin to really grow in His Grace.

The next three gates are about the return of Jesus, now that you are living for Him, you are ready for His return.

- ⊞ **The "Horse Gate"** is where Jesus rides out of heaven with you, coming back to the earth, to set up a Kingdom of righteousness, where you will co-rule.
- ⊞ **The "East Gate"** is where Jesus comes through that sealed gate, to His Temple that has been rebuilt in Jerusalem.
- ⊞ **The final gate, the "Judgment gate"**, is where Jesus finishes everything that needs to be done on the earth, and begins eternity where we enjoy Him forever.

### **Now we are back to the Sheep gate where it all began...has it began for you?**

- ⊞ **Where are you at along the wall?** Which gate do you need to go through today?
- ⊞ **Decide today** to go through the gates Jesus has ordained for you.
- ⊞ **Know that each stage of your life**, has a purpose and will bring you to His return and to rule and reign with Him.