

## **THE FORK IN THE ROAD**

One bright and sunny day, a young man was walking along the road of life when he suddenly came upon a fork in the road. At this stage along the road of life, he came to the realization that he had to make one of two choices; he had to take either one path or the other. So as he stood there confused, pondering on which direction he should go, he was given glimpses of what laid awaiting him along each path.

On one path, which we shall refer to as the **Broad Way**, and which a first glance, appeared to be the more attractive of the two, he could see all those things that were generally perceived to make people happy, and all those things which the average young man lusted for. There was an abundant supply of all the pleasures that world had to offer. There were promises of wealth, lying there just for the taking, whether through legitimate means or otherwise. He could see all the exciting things that young men fantasized about beautiful women, fast cars, fancy clothes and jewelry, wild parties, exciting bars and clubs, pornographic enticement, and much more, but above all, the freedom for indiscriminate sex with as many partners as one could physically handle. There were numerous scenes of gluttony, people indulging in the abuse of alcohol and drugs, but there were also scenes of rampant homosexuality, same sex marriages, prostitution, abortion, and many other perverted sex acts, that enticed many, but these he chose to turn a blind eye to.

With his adrenalin racing, the young man was all eager to take this 'exciting' path, but applying the little wisdom that he had, he lingered long enough, just to make sure that things were really as good as they seemed.

But as the young man stood there, he slowly began to realize that things were not as good as they had initially seemed. He discovered that life along this path was indeed fraught with many dangers. Waiting for him along the **Broad Way** of life, like a hungry lion, was the entire range of STDs that the world had to offer, including the deadly AIDS virus. Lurking out in the shadows, waiting for him, he could see drug addiction, alcoholism, avoidable sickness and diseases, recklessness, unnecessary accidents, and increased exposure to crime and violence, just to name a few pitfalls. Then, there was the stress and depression to cope with, the mismanagement of finances, suicide, divorce, poor family life, and rebellious children.

As the young man stood there, he quickly recognized that the reason for all these pitfalls existing along this path, was because these people had chosen to live lives in which they had completely ignored the existence of God.

And as he stood there, still contemplating on which path to take, he saw that many on the **Broad Way** died in their youth, as a result of their reckless lifestyles. He also realized that no matter how much fun people seemed to be having, or how much wealth they had managed to accumulate, they were never contented, and were always craving for more. And even though a person might have achieved all that there was to achieve, he was never satisfied, and was always unhappy, miserable, and empty inside.

But what really caught his attention as he stood there, was that fact that all the

things on this path, which at first seemed so attractive and exciting, were only temporary in nature, and were indeed, all passing away. The passage of time saw to it that even the most fancy car, one day, had to be hauled to the junkyard, and the prettiest of girls, one day, grew old and became full of wrinkles! Not one single person could hold on permanently to the things that he had acquired, *everyone* had to die, leaving everything behind. Yes, all the wealth, pleasure, and fame that they had spent all their lives trying to achieve, *all* had to be left behind, and there was absolutely nothing that anyone could do about it!

Disoriented by what he saw along the *Broad Way*, the young man now took a look at the way of life on the other path, which we shall refer to as the *Narrow Way*. At first glance he saw nothing that he perceived to be exciting or attractive at all. He could see people going to church, reading their Bibles, praying, showing reverence to the Creator, and all that religious stuff, which initially was indicative of people living very boring and mundane lives.

But on closer observation, he saw that this path was well decorated with scenes of clean, moral, and healthy living. There were numerous scenes of people expressing brotherly love, and people helping one another. He quickly realized that contrary to the popular perception, life on this path, which at the outset did not seem as attractive as life on the other path, was indeed very self-fulfilling. People were happy, they were allowed to realize their full potential; they led less risky lives, and had to cope with far less stress. Family values were strong, children were obedient to their parents, and partners in marriage remained faithful to one another. People ate, drank, and did everything else in moderation; therefore they enjoyed good health and greater financial stability.

By virtue of the path that they had taken, these people were protected from the consequences of reckless living, they enjoyed happy marriages, lived more fulfilling lives, employed better financial planning techniques, and were generally happy and contented with what they had achieved. But to top it all, God was always at the center of the lives of these people.

But even as he stood there, being shown glimpses of life on both paths, he could see that the years went by so quickly, and soon it was time to die; at the end of the day, death came to everyone. And as he stood there he saw all the people who had taken either of both paths, standing before the Almighty, the Judge of all mankind! Every single human being who had ever been born on the earth, had to stand before God on the terrible and dreadful **Day of Judgment**, to give an account of the things that he had done in his life.

Those who had taken the *Broad Way*, who had forgotten about the Creator, and incidentally, who were in the majority, were judged for their actions. Weeping and wailing in terrible anguish, and deeply regretting that they had taken the wrong path, they were all cast into **hell** with the devil and his hosts, where they would face eternal torment in the lake of fire.

It was, however, a happy and glorious day for those who had taken the *Narrow*

**Way**, they were welcomed into heaven by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, where they would live with him for all eternity, in the mansions that He had prepared for them, enjoying eternal pleasures that cannot be described by human words.

So after a brief period of deliberation, the young man wisely decided that he would take the **Narrow Way**, and that was the best decision that he ever made in his short life. He told himself there and then, that there was just no way he was going to sacrifice his chance for eternal life in heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ, for just a few lousy years of earthly pleasure!

So what about you my friend? Where do you stand? At this stage in your life, do you find yourself in this same situation, standing at the fork in the road, wondering which direction to go? Are you being tempted by the wealth, glitter, pageantry, and pleasures that the **Broad Way** portrays? But don't be too hasty, my friend, before you make a decision, ask yourself this critical question: Would it be a wise decision to damn your eternal soul to the pits of hell, for just a few short years of worldly pleasure? No, it definitely wouldn't be a smart decision.

So be wise my friend, and even as you stand at the fork in the road, make the right and sensible decision, just as the young man in our story did. Turn your life over to Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, and take the path that leads to life!

The Word of God tells us that the wages of sin is death, but Jesus Christ came into the world, and went to the cross to suffer a very agonizing death by crucifixion, so that *you* might be saved from your sins, and that you might live. All that you have to do, is just to believe in Him, accept Him as your Lord and Savior, and try your best to live your life in accordance with His teachings. Read your Bible and pray to God everyday. This will guarantee your salvation; it is as simple as that, my friend.

Remember that: "*The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.*" [Rom 6:23].

God bless you, my friend.