

## **Matthew 7:13-29 How Will You Choose?**

### Recap

- Matt 5:1-16 His disciples are to live a distinct life and make a godly difference in the world
- Matt 5:17-48 His disciples are to fulfill the intent and not just the letter of the Law
- Matt 6:1-18 His disciples are to practice their religious pieties to please God and not man
- Matt 6:19-34 His disciples are to recognize that Christ is their treasure and to seek God and His kingdom
- Matt 7:1-12 His disciples are to be loving in their judgement, exercise discernment and express dependence upon God

### **1. *Narrow or Wide gate: Life or Destruction (vv.13-14)***

- Reflection:
  - Do you know of anyone who rejects following Jesus because it is too difficult, troublesome or because their friends do not want to follow Jesus?
  - Are you at times tempted to give up following Jesus? What motivates you to press on?

### **2. *Beware of deception by others (vv.15-20)***

- Implications:
  - Don't be naïve, be vigilant to assess
  - The ability to assess presumes that we are well-grounded in God's word/Jesus' teachings

### **3. *Beware of self-deception (vv.21-23)***

- Implications: This is a very sober warning
  - It is possible to be busy with "so-called" serving Jesus yet neglect a relationship with Him.
  - It is possible to do "so-called" Christian things and yet be doing it sinfully (cf. eg. Matt 6:1-18).

### **4. *Wisdom or Folly: Standing firm or Falling flat (vv.24-27)***

- Reflection:
  - Are you a mere hearer or are you a doer of Jesus' teachings? (cf. James 1:22)

### Epilogue

**Jesus is the Way to life in God's kingdom, the only wise response is to follow and obey Him.**