

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.