

## Heading to life or destruction (Matthew 7:13-29)

### Intro:



**Main Idea :** Jesus teaches **discernment & future consequences** to exhort his disciples by

- entering the right gate to God's kingdom (7:13-14)
- examining the deeds & practices & you will identify false prophets (7:15-23)
- establishing commitment to act on His teaching (Jesus' words). (7:24-29)

### Reflective questions:

1. What are some "wide gates" or "false teachings" that people might be tempted to follow today?
2. Are you able to imagine how is it like if Jesus rejected us on the last day saying "I do not know you"
3. How does the idea of future consequences (life vs. destruction) impact the way we live today?



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|--|--|
|    |   |
| <p><b>Matthew 4:8</b> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the <b>kingdoms of the world</b> and their splendor. <b>9</b> “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”</p> | <p><b>Matthew 4:10</b> Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”</p> |

>> Jesus **defy** satan's "kingdom" & commences his ministry to restore & fulfill God's kingdom


How is Jesus fulfilling God's Kingdom?

>> By calling disciples to follow him, teaching, proclaiming and healing among the people

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him. (Matthew 4:19)



**Matthew 4:23** Jesus went throughout Galilee, **teaching** in their synagogues, **proclaiming** the good news of the kingdom, and **healing** every disease and sickness among the people. **24** News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them.



what is sandwiched between these two summary descriptions of Jesus's ministry are two major sections:

chapters 5–7 are a collection of Jesus's **teaching/proclaiming** called the Sermon on the Mount;

chapters 8–9 are a collection of encounters **demonstrating** his authority and power of the kingdom (healing, defying nature and driving away demons)

**Matthew 9:35** Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, **proclaiming** the good news of the kingdom and **healing** every disease and sickness.



| How is Jesus fulfilling God's <b>Kingdom</b><br>(teaching, proclaiming & healing) |  |                        |  |                                    |  |                              |
|---|--|------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Jesus defy<br>satan's<br>kingdom  | Sermon on the Mount<br><br>What does it mean to<br><b>live as blessed</b> people<br>of God's kingdom<br>according to His<br>Do's & Don't |                        | Making wise<br>choices to follow<br>Jesus faithfully | Trusting &<br>yielding to<br>Jesus | Jesus<br>demonstrated<br>his power &<br>authority to<br>teach & heal<br>those who are<br>sick, crushed<br>and broken | Accomplished<br>on the Cross |
| <b>Defy</b><br>(chp 4)  | <b>Do's</b><br>(chp 5)   | <b>Dont</b><br>(chp 6) | <b>Discernment</b><br>(Chp 7:13-29)                  | <b>Depend</b><br>(chp 8)           | <b>Demonstration</b><br>(chp 8)  | <b>Done!</b><br>(chp 27-28)  |



**Today's  
passage**



“Paul stresses men are saved by God’s sheer grace without works. *God* gives us faith. *God* is the source of all of our salvation, and it is of his sheer grace he draws us to himself and we believe, and he makes us to be his own.

Yet, for Paul, this does not mean Christians are free from responsibility.”

Don Carson



# Jesus delivered HARD teaching

In the earlier passages from Sermon on the Mount,

- Jesus describes the characteristics of those who belong to His kingdom
- How they ought to live according to God's standard

| Characteristics   | God's standard  |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Be poor in spirit</li><li>2. Mourn</li><li>3. Hunger and thirst for righteousness</li><li>4. Be merciful .</li><li>5. Be pure in heart</li><li>6. Be a peacemaker .</li><li>7. Rejoice and be glad when persecuted for Jesus</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Love your enemies</li><li>2. Give in secret</li><li>3. Pray in secret</li><li>4. Forgive others – Seek first God's Kingdom</li><li>5. Do not be angry with your brother without cause</li><li>6. Do not commit adultery</li><li>7. Do not divorce except for reasons of unfaithfulness</li><li>8. Do not swear oaths</li><li>9. Do not seek revenge</li><li>10. Deny Yourself, Take Up Your Cross, And Follow Me (Matt 16)</li></ol> |



# The ability to exercise discernment matters

Will we **FOLLOW** or **DEPART** from Jesus?

How can we make the right choices amid the influence of worldly desires, physical temptations, and false teaching?

**Discernment** is the ability to make thoughtful and wise choices

- between right and wrong
- truth and counterfeit
- or good and bad.



### **Read Matthew 7:13-29**

1. What are the differences in the final outcome of the **narrow gate** and the **wide gate**
2. How can we distinguish between a **false and true prophet** of God's Word?
3. What are the differences between the **wise builder** and the **foolish builder**?
4. What is one thing **common** to all three metaphors that Jesus gives? (2 gates/paths, 2 trees/fruits, 2 builders/foundations)



One common aspect in all three metaphors from Matthew 7:13-29 is the emphasis **on ultimate outcomes or endings**

(life or destruction, preserved or burned up, remain standing or collapse)

- The metaphor two gates/paths speaks of the end of life journey as either life or destruction (Matt. 7:13–14).
- The metaphor of the two trees/fruits speaks of the bad trees (false prophets) thrown into the fire (final judgement)
- The metaphor of the two builder/foundations speaks of the storm where houses either withstand or collapse (final judgement)



**Jesus' Concern:** Having taught the disciples the way of God's kingdom but worldly desires and false teaching resulting in lack of commitment can pull us away.

**Main Idea:** Jesus teaches **discernment & future consequences** to respond to His kingdom call by

1. **Entering the right gate**  
(7:13-14)

- 2 Gates/Paths
- The narrow gate and the difficult road are metaphors for a life characterised by repentance and kingdom living
- Jesus warns against the wide, easy & popular path leading to destruction

2. **Examining the messengers** (7:15-23)

- 2 Kinds of Prophets → False vs. True
- Jesus warns about false prophets who claim to speak for God but lead others astray

3. **Establishing our commitment** (7:24-29)

- 2 Kinds of builders
- Jesus likens wise builders to **committed** disciples who hear His words and put them into practice and thus establishing a strong foundation of faith



# 1. Entering the right gate (Matthew 7:13-14)

- The **narrow gate** and the difficult path are metaphors for life marked by repentance & suffering for Christ and be rewarded with eternal life in the end
- The narrow gate is the Lord Jesus Himself. John 10:9, the Lord Jesus, speaking on a similar matter, says to His disciples, "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved."
- The minority who find this route are the true disciples.
- The **wide gate** is the easy, popular choice that comprise with worldly desires & superficial faith
- Jesus warns against the wide and popular path leading to destruction and separation from God
- The Pharisees who relied on self-righteousness with compromised law keeping & external piety
- The pagans who are consumed by worldly desires



Why the **narrow**  
gate that leads  
to life is  
unpopular & we  
are in danger of  
not entering it

### **Persecuted for righteousness**

- Following Jesus often results in rejection, ridicule, and even persecution (5:10-12)
- because He confronts sin and reveals God's standard
- We might encounter persecution & doubted Jesus (e.g. John the Baptist)

### **Requires Self-Denial**

- Challenges Worldly Desires
- Do not store earthly treasures and serve money (6:19-24)
- Prioritizing God over our

### **Radical Kingdom standard**

- Anyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery
- Anger and hatred are just as sinful as murder



## 2. Examining the messengers (Matthew 7:15-23)

- The **Good tree** (true prophets) will bear good “fruits” (labour of love, suffering, speaking the truth for the church, leading disciples to repentance & faith)
- The **Bad tree** (false prophets) claim to speak for God but lead others astray
- False prophets may feign piety, making them difficult to distinguish from true prophets at first. However, like a tree revealing its nature through its fruit, their deeds and teachings will eventually expose them.



The danger and deceptiveness of the false prophets are compared to ferocious wolves.

However they will be **rejected** by Christ in the end

### 1. They Look Genuine but Are Dangerous

- False prophets **appear** to be righteous (“sheep’s clothing”) but are actually destructive (“ferocious wolves”).
- They blend in with true believers, making them hard to recognize at first.

### 2. They Produce Corrupt Fruit

- They Mislead People Away from Salvation
- False prophets distort or water down the gospel, keeping people from truly knowing Christ.
- Instead of leading people toward eternal life, they guide them toward destruction.

### 3. They Will Face Judgment

- Jesus warns that false teachers will not escape God’s judgment.
- “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”



# JESUS IS NOT GOD

## The Biblical Truth!



1. **John 1:1** – *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*
2. **John 1:14** – *"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*
3. **John 8:58** – *"Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" (Jesus claims the divine name "I AM" from Exodus 3:14.)*
4. **John 10:30** – *"I and the Father are one."*
5. **John 20:28** – *"Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!'"*
6. **Philippians 2:5-7** – *"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."*
7. **Colossians 1:15-17** – *"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."*
8. **Colossians 2:9** – *"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form."*



### 3. Establish our commitment (Matthew 7:15-23)

- Jesus likens the metaphor of **WISE builders** to committed disciples who hear His words and put them into practice and thus establishing a strong foundation of faith
- Wise disciples act on what they hear from their master
- Enduring house on rock = Enduring faith on judgement day
- **FOOLISH builders** complacently hear but do nothing.
- Those who pretend to have faith, who have a merely intellectual commitment, or who enjoy Jesus in small doses are like the foolish builders.
- They will collapse or be rejected by Jesus when the storms of final judgement come



**Main Idea** (Matthew 7:13-29): Jesus teaches **discernment & future consequences** to exhort his disciples to

- enter the right gate to God's kingdom (7:13-14)
- examine the deeds & practices & you will identify false prophets (7:15-23)
- establish commitment to act on His teaching (Jesus' words). (7:24-29)

Jesus himself not only decides who enters the kingdom on the last day but also who will be banished from his presence

**Reflective questions:**

1. What are some "wide gates" or "false teachings" that people might be tempted to follow today?
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3. How does the idea of future consequences (life vs. destruction) impact the way we live today?