

111. Sermon on the Mount part 6, Entering the Narrow Gate (Matthew 7:13-29)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You are the Way, the Truth and the Life. You are our only way to heaven. In this study, please help us understand that our life is always and only in You. Help us follow You in our words and actions. Please bring other people to Your church, so more people can come to You and go to heaven. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Matthew 7:13-14. Jesus said, "Enter through the narrow gate. The way to destruction? That gate is wide, and the road is very wide. Many people go through that gate. But the gate to life? That gate is small and the road is narrow. Only a few people find that gate."

- Jesus is talking about going to heaven or hell. How easy is it to go to hell? How easy to go to heaven?
- Why do you think it is difficult to go to heaven? (There can be several reasons, just try to think of a couple.)

Matthew 7:15-20. Jesus said, "Warning! Watch for false prophets (teachers). They will come to you dressed like sheep, but inside they are terrible wolves. How will you recognize them? Their fruit (actions). Do you pick grapes from thorn bushes? Do you pick figs from thistles? No! The same, every good tree grows good fruit. But the bad trees grow bad fruit. A good tree can't grow bad fruit, and a bad tree can't grow good fruit. If a tree doesn't grow good fruit, that tree is cut down and thrown in the fire. Therefore, you will see the fruit (actions) and know who the false prophets are."

- One way people go down the wide road to hell is when they follow false teachers. Jesus said the false teachers are dressed like sheep. What does that mean?
- How can you know if someone is a false teacher or not? There are two ways. (Jesus only names one way here.)
- Maybe you remember last Sunday, we saw Jesus say not to judge people. Should we judge pastors and teachers? How?
- What will happen to trees that grow bad fruit (meaning false teachers)?

Matthew 7:21-23. Jesus said, “Many people will call Me, ‘Lord, Lord.’ But not all of them will enter the kingdom of heaven. Who will enter? The person who does My Father’s will (wants). On that day, many people will tell Me, ‘Lord, Lord, we prophesied in Your name. In Your name, we forced demons out of people. In Your name, we did many miracles!’ I will tell them, ‘I never knew you. You people who do evil, leave!’”

- Jesus said who will enter heaven? The person who does God’s will (wants). What is God’s will, that we should do what?
- Does God want us to prophesy in His name? Does He want us to force demons out of people and do miracles?
- Many people say, “I believe in God.” But they never go to church, they never talk about Jesus, their life never shows faith. What can we do for those people?

Matthew 7:24-27. Jesus said, “Everyone who hears My words and does what I say is like a wise man. A wise man built his house on the rock. It rained, flooded, the winds blew and beat on that house. But the house didn’t fall. Why? The house was built on the rock. Everyone who hears My words and doesn’t do what I say is like a foolish man. A foolish man built his house on sand. It rained, flooded, the winds blew and beat on that house. That house fell, a terrible collapse.”

- Where was the strength? In the house, the man, or the rock?
- Then how important is it to pay attention to what Jesus says, and to do what He says? Remember both men heard what Jesus said.

Matthew 7:28-29. When Jesus finished speaking, the crowds of people were amazed because of how Jesus taught. Jesus didn’t teach like the Jewish leaders. Jesus taught like He had real authority.

- Why do you think Jesus taught with real authority? Where was His authority from?