

One Way Mathew 7:13-27

V13-14

- Jesus is about to conclude the now famous Sermon on the Mount. Previously He spoke of our attitudes toward ourselves - our sins, the world, and the Lord. Later Jesus taught us of the dangers of hypocrisy concerning our giving, praying, and fasting. How our motives need to be right when we practice these 3 disciplines of the Christian faith. We should never ever try to impress man or call attention to ourselves by these deeds.
- Finally in chapter 7 Jesus speaks of judging and the basis for it. He tells us that when we judge it should first start with ourselves (**Matthew 7:1-5**). Then He gives the reason we must judge in **Matthew 7:6**.
- As God's people He has entrusted us with the precious truths of the Word of God, therefore we must regard them carefully. No dedicated priest Jesus says would throw meat meant for the altar to a dog, and certainly no one with right sense would place expensive pearls around a pig's neck. So in order to be effective in ministry we must be able to discern certain things and make proper judgments. Like **Mark 16:15** tell us to preach the word to every creature. However, based upon their responses I must discern whether to continue or not.
- In **Luke 23:8-9**, Herod was the only person Jesus refused to speak to during His interrogation. In **Matthew 21:23-27** the religious leaders tried to trap Him, but He refused to answer them. So too Christians must be able to assess the situation before continuing to share with people who treat the divine truths with utter contempt, lest they turn on us and we suffer not for the gospel, but for lack of discernment.
- Jesus closes with 3 very important illustrations: the first says there are different path's we can take. There's the difficult road, which Jesus describes as the narrow gate, and then there's the easy road, which Jesus calls the broad way. The word "broad" can be translated spacious, and is used for a whole country, meaning you can fit everything in it. It's the popular way, the attractive way; it's the life of self-indulgence and pleasure, where you can either reject Jesus outright and its okay, or profess Jesus, go to church, any church of your choosing of course, and still live life on your terms. It's the life filled with many choices but with few rules, and few restrictions, and even fewer requirements, as sin is tolerated, truth is moderated, and the fear of God is ignored. It's the path of least resistance (**Proverbs 14:12**)...
 1. Where human intellect rules
 2. Where feelings dictate decisions
 3. Where consequences for actions is of no thought
- Jesus says the majority of the world would rather travel down this road even though it leads to destruction. On the other hand Jesus tells us up front how the road of Christian discipleship is hard and the reason for this is that it comes with a cost (v14).

- Since it's narrow, and not wide, you can't keep your baggage of sin and worldliness with you. And with few wanting to travel it that means it can be a lonely road also. You may have to walk alone in your home, as your spouse might not walk with you or at school or on the job as co-workers are not interested. Whatever the case, you stay the course, even if it means alone. This is not the easy Christianity we hear today, where there are few demands and plenty of appetites to satisfy.
- Jesus says this is hard, so He commands us to enter not just any gate, but the narrow gate, the right gate, God's gate, the only gate that leads to life and glory (**Luke 18:18-23**).

V15-23

- Secondly, Jesus says there are different messages we can hear; as long as God has had His prophets Satan has had his false ones. Yet, as soon as someone says thus says the Lord, instead of listening more attentively, people drop their guards (**Acts 17:10-11**). However, that's when we should be more alert, in terms of testing. Jesus says...
 1. **They give the appearance of God's messengers** - but are not; they're ravenous wolves, meaning they're vicious, and they'll be right in the midst of you
 2. **They water down the truth** - there are fruits, meaning they will produce something, it won't just be a barren tree - it will be a tree that produces fruit according to its character (rotten); and all who consume it will end up suffering horribly
 3. **They will be in the majority not the minority** - many will come; to them Jesus was just a title or name and not indicative of the position He held in their lives; Jesus is not impressed by good deeds only surrendered hearts

V24-27

- Lastly, Jesus says there are different houses we can build. Each builder heard the same message and they both build a house after they've heard. The houses represent their lives; one builds his life upon Jesus words (v24), and the other builds his house on sand or his philosophies. Both were subject to the same storm but the outcome was completely different, as one person's house stood and the other fell.
- If a person lives their life according to Jesus words the world will call them a fool, but Jesus calls them wise. The tragedy is both men believed their houses would stand the storm, but one man's confidence is in the Lord, and the other is in himself.