

## Sermon on the Mount: Kingdom Warnings

Sunday, November 27/22 --- Matthew 7:13 – 23

*Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man?... You love evil more than good, and lying more than speaking what is right... But God will break you down forever; He will snatch and tear you from your tent; He will uproot you from the land of the living. - Psalm 52:1, 3, 5*

*Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many... Beware of false prophets... Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord', will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. - Matthew 7:13, 15, 21*

*What is immediately striking about these verses is the absolute nature of the choice before us. We would all prefer to be given many more choices than only one, or better still to fuse them all into a conglomerate religion, thus eliminating the need for any choice. But Jesus cuts across our easy-going syncretism. He will not allow us the comfortable solutions we propose.*

- John Stott, Christian Counter Culture

### 1. Warnings about the Easy Way (7:13 – 14)

- a. It has a wide gate (vs. 13)
- b. Many travel on it (vs. 13)
- c. It leads to destruction (vs. 13)

So, enter by the narrow gate to the hard way that few find, because it leads to life (vs. 14).

### 2. Warnings about False Teachers (7:15 – 20)

- a. They come in sheep's clothing, but are ravenous wolves (vs. 15)
- b. You will recognize them by their fruit (vs. 16 – 20)
- c. Their end is destruction (vs. 19)

### 3. Warnings about False Followers (7:21 – 23)

- a. They call Jesus, 'Lord', but He does not know them (vs. 21, 23)
- b. They profess to perform mighty works, but they disobey the will of God (vs. 21 – 22)
- c. Their end is destruction (vs. 23)

## Kingdom Warnings (Mt. 7:13 – 23)

### Discussion Question:

*A life of drift is easy to follow. Just let the wind or the current of the world take you. But Jesus warns that it leads to destruction. The path of following Jesus is narrow, and many will try and lead you away from it. You can identify such false prophets by the fruit of their lives. Don't be fooled by flashy signs, big deeds or spiritual-sounding language. Jesus wants us to examine the fruit.*

- *What part of the way that is wide and easy (vs. 13) is most difficult for you to stay away from? Do you have a 'few' (vs. 14) journeying with you on the narrow way? Can you name them?*
- *Based on these verses who should we be listening to and following, and who should we be avoiding? What are some of the deceitful schemes and teachings prevalent today?*

### Challenge:

*Identify who 'your people' are. Who are the Christian brothers and sisters God has given you to journey with on the narrow way? Call them this week, read these verses, and then pray together to stay faithful in following Jesus.*