

Sermon on the Mount – Mathew 7:13-29

Two ways; Two trees; Two professions; Two foundations

The meat of Jesus' sermon being finished, he has these closing remarks: 4 examples of two choices.

v.13-14-Two ways – Enter ye in at the strait (narrow) gate. The broad gate and wide way lead to destruction, and many go in by that way. The broad and wide is the way promoted by the Pharisees who direct people towards the works of the Law as the way to salvation, to eternal life. But the “strait and narrow”, the way found by few, is the way that leads to life. Jesus is the gate (the door) and the way. We know that deciding to go the way of Christ is not the popular decision, fewer people really walk that path. It's interesting to note that early Christians were first called those of “the way” (Acts 9:2; 19:9; 22:4; 24:14). It is the way of grace and not of works.

v.15-20-Two trees – Beware of false prophets who are really wolves in sheeps clothing. You will be able to discern who is a sheep and who is a wolf by the fruit each yields. Grapes don't come from thorns, and figs don't come from thistles and a good tree brings forth good fruit and cannot bring forth evil fruit; a corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit and cannot bring forth good fruit. v. 20. By their fruits ye shall know them. Fruit: what they do, what they say, how they live, and what are the results of it in the world. Is the world better, are people really helped, changed, delivered, encouraged, etc..

v.21-23 – Two professions - Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven. Not every one crying Lord, Lord, professing that they know the Lord and he knows them will enter his kingdom. They profess with their lips that he is Lord of their lives, but their lives say something else. They count on their works as proof that they know the Lord. “ Lord, I prophesied in your name, cast out devils in your name, did wonderful works in your name.” But Lord's answer will be “I never knew you. Depart from me ye that work iniquity.” Works, no matter how marvelous, cannot save us. Only through Christ can we be saved.. Only those who profess that he is Lord and v.21 “doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” shall enter the kingdom. The proof that one is regenerated is that one is continually living in obedience to the will of God as the normal course of life. Your lifestyle is submission to God's word, constant accountability to God, learning how to practice in life what he desires of us, according to the Word of God.

v.24-27 – Two foundations – Those who HEAR AND DO what Jesus has taught is like the wise man who builds house on a rock. And when the rains, floods and winds, of adversity, of persecution beat against the house, the house remained standing. Those who HEAR AND DO NOT DO what Jesus has taught are like the foolish man who builds his house on the sand, when things come against it, it collapses. What foundation is sure when we DO THE WORD.

v.28-29 – After Jesus was finished, the people were astonished because unlike the scribes who just repeated what the prophets had said, Jesus spoke with the authority of one who personally knew what he was talking about. Jesus was his own authority.