

**THE KING'S SERMON**  
**On Earth as it is in Heaven**  
**Only Two Responses to the King's Sermon**  
**Matthew 7:12-23**

**Big Idea:** Jesus exhorts us to respond to His sermon because our response has eternal consequences.

> **The Sermon of the Mount ends with four warnings that focus on future final judgment.**

Each warning offers a contrasting pair: two ways (vv. 13–14), two trees (vv. 15–20), two confessions (vv. 21–23), and two builders (vv. 24–27).

**Eternal Reward**

- Ends in life (7:14)
- Produces good fruit and is blessed (7:17)
- Included in the Kingdom (7:21)
- Preservation (7:25)

**Eternal Punishment**

- Ends in death (7:13)
- Produces bad fruit and is burned (7:19)
- Excluded from the Kingdom (7:23)
- Devastation (7:27)

> **Jesus exhorts us to respond to His sermon (v. 13a).**

13a "Enter by the narrow gate."

**Luke 13:24**

24 "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able."

**I. Two ways (7:13-14)**

**A. The broad way (v. 13)**

13 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.

(1) The gate is wide (v. 13b).

"For the gate is wide"

(2) The way is easy (v. 13b).

"and the way is easy"

(3) The way leads to destruction (v. 13bc).

"that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many."

**Proverbs 16:25**

25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

**B. The narrow way (v. 14)**

14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

(1) The gate is narrow (v. 14a).

"For the gate is narrow"

**John 14:6**

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

(2) The way is hard (v. 14a).

"and the way is hard"

> The way is narrow because it is the way of persecution and opposition.

**Matthew 5:10–12**

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

> The way is narrow because it is the way of denying, dying, and sacrifice.

**Matthew 16:24–25**

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

(3) The way leads to life (v. 14ab).

"leads to life, and those who find it are few."

> The King's Sermon addresses the distinction between internal righteousness and external righteousness.

- The broad way is the way of self-righteousness. Just external righteousness leads to destruction.

This is the way of the Pharisees!

- The narrow way is the way of internal righteousness. Internal righteousness lived out by God's

grace leads to life. This is the way of a disciple!

## II. Two Trees (7:15-20)

Two images:

### A. Wolves in sheep's clothing (v. 15)

15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

(1) The New Testament says there will be false prophets:

> Jesus says the rise of false prophets is a sign of the end of the age (Matt. 24:11).

> Paul told to the elders of Ephesus that fierce wolves would infiltrate the church (Acts. 20:29-32).

> Peter says that there will be false prophets and teachers among you (2 Peter 2:1-14).

(2) How can you recognize a false teacher?

> They neither preach the narrow way nor practice it.

> They can recognize them by their fruit (v. 16-18, 20).

Bad theology often equals bad morality.

In 2 Peter 2:1-14 it is pride (vv. 12-13, 18), sensuality (vv. 10, 12-14, 19), and greed (v. 3, 14-15).

### B. Trees (vv. 16-18)

16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

(1) A healthy tree bears good fruit (v. 17a, 18a)

17a So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, - - - 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, They will boast and about their spiritual accomplishments and rely on them for entrance.

(2) A diseased tree bears bad fruit (v. 17b, 18b).

17b but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. - - - 18b nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.

(3) Trees that do not bear good fruit are cut down and burned (v. 19-20).

19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

## III. Two Confessions (7:21-23)

### A. True followers confess that Jesus is Lord and obey Him (v. 21).

21 "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.

17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

**B. False followers confess that Jesus is Lord but do not obey Him (vv. 22-23).**

22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

(1) How can you recognize a false follower?

> There is confession without submission.

**Luke 6:46**

46 "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"

> The supernatural is exalted and obedience is neglected.

> They chose the road of human achievement (v 22).

All the world's religions are based on human achievement. Biblical Christianity is based on divine accomplishment – the work of Christ on man's behalf.

**Romans 4:4-5**

4 Now to the one who works, [whoever chooses a religion of human achievement], his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly [whoever submits to the religion of divine accomplishment], his faith is counted as righteousness,

(2) What is the result of being a false follower (v. 23)?

23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

**Psalm 1:6**

6 for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.