



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

SERMON ON THE MOUNT WEEK 9: MATTHEW 7:13-29

Community Group Study Guide - Week of March 28, 2021

Introduction:

Introductions and conclusions are the most important parts in a public speech. Jesus' opening, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," was captivating! While landing the plane (of His sermon), He asks His hearers how they are going to land the plane (of their life). He wants them thinking about whether their life will lead to a smooth and peaceful landing, or a difficult crash.

1. There are only 2 paths (v13-14)

- What are the two paths?
- The path that leads to life is that which is in Christ (Prov. 14:12, 16:25, John 14:26, Acts 4:11-12).
- The alternative path is any other path, centered on the pursuit self-righteousness or earthly treasure (Rom. 3:23, 6:23).
- Jesus being the only path that leads to life sounds exclusive, but the alternative, that there is no way at all, is more exclusive; there is no alternative path to get to God's presence/heaven.
- How is there no other way aside that which is in Christ? Only Jesus, in His state of complete moral perfection and full divinity, could be worthy and able to pay the penalty that our sin required, AND only Jesus, in His full humanity, could stand in our place to be our atoning substitution. It's a narrow way, but open to all who would take it (John 3:16, Rom. 10:11-13).
- While it's free to enter the narrow gate, the road that follows is one that won't be easy.
- If you're walking on the narrow road, it's likely that you'll stick out from the world.
- A key difference to the journey with Jesus is that it doesn't begin with finding ourselves, but with losing ourselves.
- Walking through the narrow gate, and on the journey with Christ seems foolish, hard and costly today, but it will reap eternal benefits and bring eternal glory and joy for all those who take it.

2. There are only 2 directions (v15-23)

- Jesus is speaking into the reality that we can lose our sense of direction. He wants us to know how to know that we're on the right path. He's assuming that we can be deceived by false prophets and teachers, and even our own flesh.
- Some teachers are blatantly evil, but many appear to be "wolves in sheep's clothing." While using social media, hearing the messages of the world, and learning in our classrooms and at work, we need to be discerning.
- Even in the church, not everybody who calls Jesus "Lord" is on the right path.
- We need to filter everything that we hear through word of God to discern if it is true. Galatians 1:6-9; Col. 2:8; Acts 17:10-12.
- Christians shouldn't be riddled with doubt about their salvation. They should be discerning and have assurance of their salvation.
- Christians can identify if they have assurance of salvation by looking for the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives (2 Peter 1:5-10; Gal. 5:16-24). We look for the existence of growth in our lives of every "fruit" of the Spirit.
- If the Spirit of Christ isn't working in you, you begin Christian life by repenting of sin and trusting in Christ for peace with the Father and filling of the Spirit.

3. There are only two destinations (v24-29)

- Jesus doesn't say that if you hear His words and do them you will avoid the storms of life. Storms are inevitable.
- It's not about what one builds that gives a person the ability to withstand the storms of life, but what (or who) a person builds on.
- Christians can have a sure identity and peace that transcends all understanding because their hope isn't in this life, but in the next life (in Christ). Their souls stand on a foundation that will not move. Jesus proved and established this way for Christians when He faced the storm of God's wrath (that we deserve) on the cross and rose from the dead. God raised Christ from the grave to vindicate Him and to prove once and for all that He can and will do the same to all who believe in Him.
- Jesus Christ is looking for followers, not fans. If you're a follower, you can't walk this path alone. You need to do so within the context of the church.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand that a person who is truly Christian walks in a radically different way than the non-Christians around him or her.

Heart

To trust Christ and His instructions in the Bible when we are tempted or when others try to cause us to change the direction we're moving in.

Hands

To build the foundation of our earthly identities on our eternal relationship with Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our **Good Friday Service** will be at 6PM THIS Friday, April 2.

Easter Services will be at 8:30AM, 10:15AM, and 12PM THIS Sunday, April 4.

Please go to <https://brookline.mosaicboston.com/serve> to **sign up for a service team**.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 7:13-29

1. The contrast in Matthew 7:13-14 is not between religion and paganism. What is being contrasted? Why do religion and paganism both lead a person on the path to destruction?
2. How is Christianity exclusive?
3. How is Christianity inclusive?
4. How would you respond to a friend or relative who told you that they could never be Christian because Christianity is not inclusive enough?
5. What aspects of Jesus' being and moral record make faith in Him the only way that "leads to life"?
6. Pastor Shane said, "salvation costs us nothing, but discipleship costs us everything." What does this mean?
7. **Read verse 22.** What kind of response was Christ trying to get out of His audience by saying this?
8. How can a Christian have assurance that he or she is walking on the narrow path?
9. Based on Scripture and your own experience, what are common teachings and features of false teachers?
10. How does faith in Christ prepare a person to face the inevitable storms of life? How has it helped you endure stormy seasons?