

WOMEN IN THE WORD FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT Scripture Reference Notes – April 21, 2026 Week 11: Two Ways and Two Trees

Matthew 7:13-14 - *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. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*

We have the gate and the way and the place where the path leads
Wide and narrow gate
Easy and hard way
One leads to destruction and one leads to life

The GATE

Enter by the narrow gate.

The gate is the opening to the Way. If Jesus is the Way or path, what is it that gets us to that path? The gate leads to the path/way.

The gate is talking about salvation here. Jesus is speaking to a group of people - Gentiles, Jews, Pharisees, disciples, religious leaders. His audience has many different ideas about the path to God and heaven and a good life.

So we see that the narrow GATE is the gospel of GRACE. It is by God's grace that we find the WAY spoken of next. It is narrow, because it is the only way to find Jesus. Grace is undeserved and is accessed by faith.

Faith = you still have to walk through it. But it is narrow because it's the only way through it.

The WAY

John 14:6 - *Jesus said to him, "I am the WAY, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

The narrow WAY is the way of truth. Jesus is the way, He is the truth, and He is our life.

John 8:31-32 - *So Jesus said to the Jew who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

Hebrews 10:19-20 - *Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,*

Acts 4:12 - *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

Why does Jesus warn that the way will be hard and not easy?

He knows that many of His disciples will be martyred. He knows the persecution that Christians will face.

BUT that WAY leads to LIFE and not destruction. People may say, well persecution and martyrdom kind of IS destruction. But we are talking about eternal LIFE.

ETERNAL LIFE WITH GOD though is not destruction. Eternal condemnation in hell is destruction!!

John 20:31 - *but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

Good Fruit & Bad Fruit

Matthew 7:15-20 - *Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.*

Who are the false prophets? Old Testament. They were people who professed to be prophets of God, but who did not speak God's Word.

Jeremiah 23:16 - *Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, 'It shall be well with you'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.'"*
(Also Deuteronomy 18:20, Ezekiel 13:2)

God had warned Israel to beware of false prophets. They would lead people astray. Lead people away from the one true God. Jesus also warns people about the false prophets, several times.

Matthew 24:11 Jesus is speaking of the end times. *"And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray."*

Peter, Paul, and John, all warn about false prophets.

Jesus says in Matthew 7:15 that they will be recognizable by their fruits. If it is a bad fruit, it is from a bad tree, or vine or plant.

Can we recognize a the bad vine or tree by fruit?

Does what someone teaches follow God's Word?

Does it contradict any part of God's Word?

Does it affirm the culture instead of God's Word?

Is the teacher humble and teachable to listen to correction?

Does the teaching glorify God or people?

Does the teaching focus on what God has done or what man must do?

A man-centered view of the Bible and Bible stories puts the focus on works and merit to gain acceptance with God rather than God's plan for redemption and Christ's sacrifice and God's grace for both salvation and for sanctification.

Two ditches - legalism or liberalism (both are bad fruit)

Legalism - Be aware that wolves in sheep's clothing is very deceptive. They are often not easy to detect. Is the focus what God has done, or what man must do to

please God? Is it about relationship with God like a father or about a tyrannical king who demands perfection and burdens people with guilt and shame? Pharisees

Liberalism - Be aware that wolves in sheep's clothing is very deceptive. They are often not easy to detect. A good question to ask yourself as you listen to teaching from the Word of God or advice from other people: Does this message follow the culture or the Bible?

The world does not give true peace! Jesus offers us true peace.

John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

***Next Lesson – April 28
Week 12 – A Call to Decisiveness***