

A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1: Title

Finding the Kingdom

Matthew 7:7-14

Slide 2:

Matthew 7:7–14 (ESV)

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

“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.”

Slide 3:

What we aren't really going to talk about [today](#):

Matthew 7:7-11 (Prayer) (Trust)

Faith to understand that we ask for "bad" things and He only gives us "good" things.

Matthew 7:12 (Golden Rule) (Christian Rule)

Requires:

a) Covenantal Empathy

b) Biblical Knowledge of God (so we can "stand in")

Slide 4:

I. The Paradox of the Two Choices

II. What the Two Choices Signify

III. Why the Choice Determines a Destiny

Slide 5:

The Paradox

Stenos = "narrow" = constriction and death

Platys = "wide" = spaciousness and fullness

The stenosis leads to platys, and the platys leads to stenosis

Slide 6:

"Tirian looked round again and could hardly believe his eyes. There was the blue sky overhead, and grassy country spreading as far as he could see in every direction, and his new friends all round him laughing.

"It seems, then," said Tirian, smiling himself, "that the stable seen from within and the stable seen from without are two different places."

"Yes," said the Lord Digory. "Its inside is bigger than its outside."

Slide 7:

The Choices Revealed

Two Kinds of Righteousness (Salvation)

Slide 8:

1) Self-Righteousness/Self-Salvation

2) Alien Righteousness/Grace

Slide 9:

Why Must These Turn Into Destinies?

One relies on self+, and one relies 100% on God

Slide 10:

How to Choose/Be Chosen

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Have someone read Matthew 7:7-14. What are some of your own thoughts on what God is communicating in this text?

followers?

3. Jesus is mentioning a paradox that is pregnant throughout all of scripture...the narrow gate and way leads to the full life, and the wide gate and way leads to a narrow death. Could you explain the paradox to others? How does "death" lead to life, and "life" lead to death? How do the first become last, and the last first?

4. We know that the Narrow gate and way is the WAY...through Jesus, and continuing sanctification through death to self-salvation and then into eternal life. We know that the Wide gate and way is the way...around Jesus, or with His assistance, through life to our own way, our needs and desires and dreams and reputations, and then to eternal death. Do you see how He has been speaking to this through the entire sermon? Examples?

5. Why does it work this way? What kind of person is the only person Jesus cannot save? Is He punishing us in the end or giving us what we have always wanted? These statements should spur communication. Jesus doesn't SEND us to hell...we choose it. Is that right?

6. Can you explain how a choice for salvation is really being chosen? Why is it true that every person in heaven will say, "thank you God for choosing and saving me", and never "finally, I have worked all my life for this"??

7. Prayer and praise

(When is the last time you have thanked God for saving you?)