

SERMON on MOUNT CONCLUSION

Matt 7.15-26

In these last 11 verses, Jesus gives the conclusion to the entire sermon on the mount, so we are going to take them all together. He sums up everything that has come before: He starts with describing the characteristics of the disciples in the kingdom...

 blessed are the poor, mourn, meek...WONDERFUL promises for humanity!

Then he tells us that we are the salt and the light, bringing his kingdom to Earth and bringing people into His Kingdom

BUT, as His laborers, must maintain the correct attitude in our hearts: Anger, lust, oaths giving, sharing, loving our enemies, etc.

In the middle of the Sermon, brings us to the peak of victory in the Lord's prayer. This is where He summarizes everything...if...
 we concentrate on the kingdom; we lay up treasures in heaven; we serve him only

Then we find out we don't have to worry! We can consider the lilies of the field, and the birds of the air, and we can rest in His provision.

NOW we come to the grand finale!

THE TRUE DISCIPLE (13–14),

The people of the NARROW gate; they are narrow-minded; highly focused...They give the MINORITY REPORT to the world.

True discipleship is a minority position, taking the lesser road...

True discipleship is a matter of deliberately opting out of the mainstream, following little stream.

One more thing: Being a true disciple is NOT about possessions; position; education, \$\$; etc.

A true disciple moving through the NARROW way can be:

Wealthy:	Abe; Joseph; Priscilla/Aquila; Lydia (Philippi)
Well-educated:	Paul; Luke; Apollos (Acts 18, an eloquent, gifted, powerful speaker);
Powerful:	Cornelius (Roman centurion)

When we leave the narrow way, we begin the self-deception that leads to death.

This is usually because self-deception and self gratification go hand in hand, one feeds the other.

The Bible says there is a way that seems right to a man but the end is death...

We become a professing disciple!

 We follow from afar, we follow when it's convenient we follow when it helps us
 Remember the feeding of the 5000... when the goodies were gone so were they!

THE PROFESSING DISCIPLE (15–20) (This is a more subtle division)...

These are those who look into the perfect law of liberty, forget...*they become hearers of the word but not doers*

Because there is no root, we have no fruit.

And if some fruit does come, begins to go bad and we don't even know it.

We become a fig tree that looks beautiful, but bears no fruit.

 We start gathering but have nothing to show for it.

 We try to harvest but our barns are empty.

 We hew out for ourselves cisterns that are broken and empty

So there are those who profess, but cannot receive...which leads to the greatest loss of all...

THE DECEIVING DISCIPLE (21–23), Lord Lord!

This can be a bit frightening for us! I thought you needed the HS to do all these things!

Those who apparently

- *Believe themselves to be genuine disciples.*
- *Can prove it by divine works! (WEIRD)*
- *But are false, deceptive and self-driven.*

This tells me two things:

First, miraculous things can be done by demonic forces! Demons can disguise themselves as angels of light.

Miracles, fake Visions, false dreams, lying prophecies... and they are all currently on Youtube!

Self deceived deceivers deceiving everyone around them!

They were all doing great visible things, ***but did not invite people to get close to Jesus***

ANY sign that does not point to Jesus is an anti-sign.

ANY wonder that does not make you fall at the feet of Jesus, is a false profession.

Every sign, every Wonder must point to Jesus! *Only Jesus gets the praise everything has to promote a clear picture of Jesus Christ*

THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE (24–27) The characteristic of a true disciple: Behaviour.

Both wise and foolish are depicted as hearing these words of mine; *the difference is in putting them into practice*

This division runs through the middle of those who belong to the Jesus-circle.

This whole concluding section of the discourse leaves us with the uncomfortable demand to consider not just WHAT we profess, but what WE DO.

The faithful disciple finds he is built on the Rock and weathers every storm!

When we take the narrow way of mourning, meekness, spiritual poverty, hunger, mercy, etc

We gain the earth and its fullness, the Kingdom of heaven and we see God's face!