

The Sermon on the Mount Conclusion

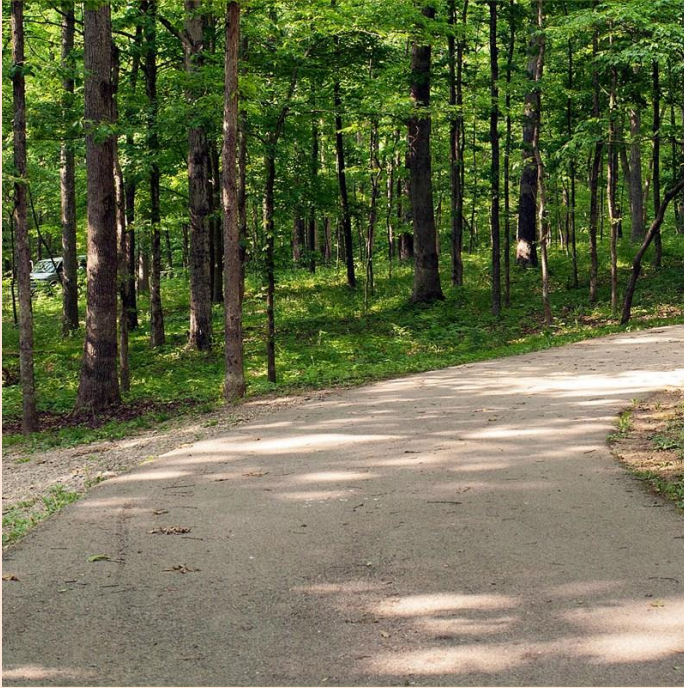
**Jesus' Warnings -
Two Gates, Two Roads,
and Two Builders**

Matthew 7:13-27

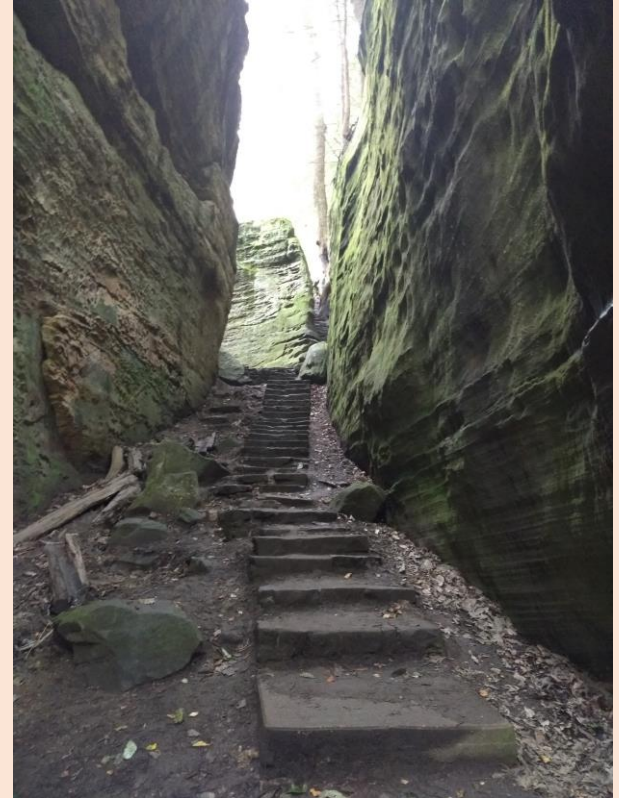
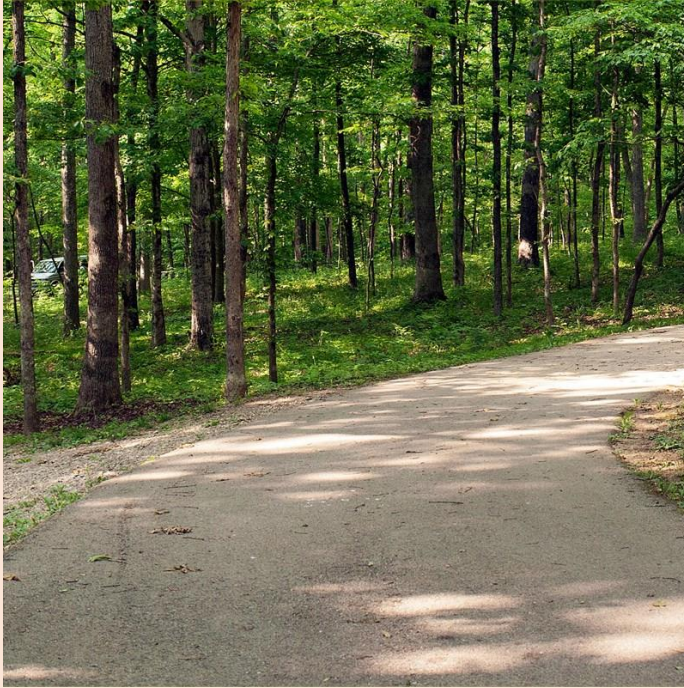
Hocking Hills State Park (Ohio)



Paths of Hocking Hills State Park



Paths of Hocking Hills State Park



- **Today we will look at Jesus' warnings to his listeners (esp. Pharisees & the crowd).**
- **Next Sunday, we will look at how Jesus works with His disciples on the road (esp. Peter).**

Jesus' Stories of Opposites

Two Gates, Two Roads

Examples of True/False Prophets & Disciples

Two Builders, Two Results

- *They were seeking the same goal: LIFE*
- *But there is only one way to LIFE*
- *Jesus calls us to ENTER the way to LIFE*

Matthew 7:13-27

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

The Way that Leads to Life

- **“I will bless you ... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Gen. 12:1-3)**
- **“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.” (Exod. 20:1-3)**
- **“Observe the commands of the Lord your God, walking in obedience to him and revering him.” (Deut. 8:6)**

- **“As a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you.” (Deut. 8:5)**
- **“Jesus who is called the MESSIAH ... He will save his people from their sins.” (Matt. 1:16,21)**

→ Life is given through submission to God, in heart and in actions; individually, nationally and globally. Disrespect and disobedience bring God’s discipline.

→ *Jesus was preaching to the choir about the Faith.
(Our audience may not understand this.)*

→ *Jesus confronted Israel about their hypocrisy.*

- **“BLESSED are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 5:3)**

The Problem of Israel's Heart

- **Leaders - “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.” (Matt. 15:8)**
- **People - “For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes.” (Matt. 13:15)**

Jesus' Warning in Pictures

Wide Gate & Road, House on Sand

- **Wide & easy – *defined by ME; no constraints***
- **Entered by many – *affirmation of the crowd***
- **Foolishly built on sand – *built on emotions, group-think and a worldview without God***
- **Destroyed by a storm – *Judgment Day***



Wide & Easy



Wide & Easy



Entered by Many



Foolishly Built on Sand



Destroyed by a Storm



Are You Prepared?



**But I tell you
that everyone will
have to give
account on the day
of judgment
for every empty
word they have
spoken. (Matt.
12:36)**

Examples of the Wide Road

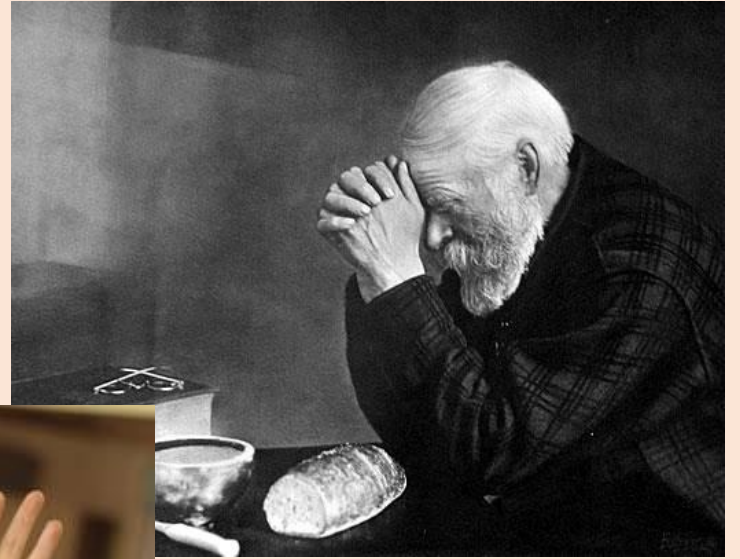
The Pharisees (7:15-20)

- “Come in sheep’s clothing” - *Hypocrites*
- “Grapes from thornbushes?” – *Teachers with head-knowledge but without obedience*
- “Ferocious wolves” - *Shepherds without love for God’s People*
- “But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’” (Matt. 9:13; 12:7) – *They prioritized stringent rituals over mercy for sinners*

Examples of the Wide Road

The Crowds (7:21-23)

- “Lord, Lord” – *religious emotions*
- “Prophecy ... drive out demons ... perform miracles”
- “I never knew you” – *religious works without corresponding life with God*



Jesus' Contrast in Pictures

Small Gate & Road, House on Rock

→ *Jesus is the Gate (Savior) and His teaching is the Road (Lord). (Matt. 28:18-20)*

→ *We enter by faith and repentance, confessing Jesus as Savior and Lord. (Matt. 4:17; 16:16; Acts 20:21; 26:20)*

- *Small, narrow & hard – humbles me (18:3); changes my heart and behavior (5:6-8,44; 7:12)*

Enter Through the Narrow Gate and Road



Jesus' Contrast in Pictures

Small Gate & Road, House on Rock

- Found by few – *swimming upstream (5:10-12)*
- Wisely built on rock – *faith in Messiah Jesus (Matt. 16:16); hearing, understanding, practicing Jesus' teaching (13:23)*

The Few, Built on the Rock



Jesus' Contrast in Pictures

Small Gate & Road, House on Rock

- Protected in the storm by the Rock – *by God's mercy (26:28)*

Protected in the Storm



Jesus Calls You to Choose

The Way of Ease & Destruction

OR

The Way of Narrowness & Life

How Jim Cooper Found Life

How Jim Cooper Found Life

Now that we are heaven bound, there is a way that
we should go,

And if we will walk that way, our Father's blessings
we will know;

An easy way it may not be but on that way we will
be free,

For our Father knows what's best and in His will we
will be blessed.

How Jim Cooper Found Life

**Sometimes as we walk along, we'll slip and fall and
lose our song,**

**But if we will on Him call, he'll lead us back where
we belong;**

**Then again with joy we'll sing... the joy that only
Jesus brings,**

**Then the world will truly see that only Jesus makes
us free.**

How Jim Cooper Found Life

So my friend, as you move on that straight and narrow road to heaven,

Veer not to the left or right but only follow Jesus' light;

And if you do, you need not fear what lies ahead, where sight's unclear,

The future's in our Father's hands and He will see us home to heaven.

Will You Choose Jesus and His Way to Life?



To find LIFE



**To find LIFE, ENTER
the narrow gate and road.**



**Confess Jesus as
Savior and Lord.**