

Matthew 7:13-23
Kingdom Distinctions

Matthew 7:13-23 – *“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. 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 thornbushes, 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. Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'”*

In the kingdom of God there is a clear distinction between those who are kingdom citizens and those who are not.

D.A. Carson – *“Two ways, and only two. The Sermon on the Mount does not end with lofty thoughts of human goodness, sprinkled liberally with naive hope about the inevitability of human progress. It offers two ways, and only two. The one ends in life, good fruit, entrance into the kingdom of heaven, stability; the other ends in destruction, bad fruit and fire, exclusion from the kingdom along with other evildoers, ruination. Solemn thoughts, these; a man will ignore the weight of these blessings and curses only at his own eternal peril.”*

1. The 2 Paths (vv. 13-14)



ONE PATH IS WIDE AND EASY; THE OTHER IS NARROW AND HARD.

Proverbs 14:12 – *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”*

Matthew 23:13-15 – *“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.”*

John 10:9 – *“I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.”*

John 14:6 – *“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

Q: Which path are you on?

2. The 2 Types of Trees (vv. 15-20)



ONE TREE IS DISEASED AND PRODUCES BAD FRUIT; THE OTHER IS HEALTHY AND PRODUCES GOOD FRUIT.

Douglas Moo – *“The gospel is authenticated not by its truth only nor by its power in people’s lives only, but by both working in tandem.”*

John 15:1-2, 4-6, 8 – *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit... Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned... By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”*

Q: What does your fruit look like?

3. The 2 Expectations (vv. 21-23)

John 8:43-44 – “Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires.”



ONE DOES NOT DO THE WILL OF THE FATHER YET EXPECTS THE KINGDOM; THE OTHER DOES THE WILL OF THE FATHER AND CAN SURELY EXPECT THE KINGDOM.

D.A. Carson – “The discipleship which Jesus requires is absolute, radical in the sense that it gets to the root of human conduct and to the root of relationships between God and men. A person either enters the kingdom or he does not. He walks the road that leads to life, or he walks the road that leads to destruction. There is no third alternative. Nothing, nothing at all, could have more crucial significance than following Jesus. Even if today this is far from being a universally admitted truth, yet one day all men without exception shall confess it, some to their everlasting grief.”

Q: What is your expectation and is it in line with Jesus’ teaching?

Response:

1. Consider your life.

- What path are you on?
- What type of fruit do you see?
- What are you expecting?

2. Embrace the gospel.

- Repent in light of the gospel.
- Rest because of the gospel.
- Rejoice in the gospel.