

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.”*

Psalm 14:1 – *“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.”*

Ephesians 2:8-9 – *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”*

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.’”*

Psalm 16:11 – *“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*

Q: Which path are you on?

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

A.W. Pink – *“There is nothing in their preaching which searches the conscience and renders the empty professor uneasy, nothing which humbles and causes their hearers to mourn before God; but rather that which puffs up, makes them pleased with themselves and to rest content in a false assurance.”*

1 John 4:1 – *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”*



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

Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Martin Luther – “Good works do not make a good man, but a good man does good works.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship* – “Grace and active obedience are complementary. There is no faith without good works, and no good works apart from faith.”

Q: What does your fruit look like?

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



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.

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.”

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.