

Three pictures. Two alternatives. One unavoidable choice.

1

The Narrow & Wide Gate

THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

Matthew 7:13-14 (CSB)

13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. 14 How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it."

- **Jesus is the gate. We enter by His grace - and the gate opens onto a road.**
- Salvation is received by faith alone in Christ alone, but saving faith never comes alone.

Acts 4:12 (CSB)

12 There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.

Matthew 7:21 (CSB)

21 "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 in heaven."

The broad road appears to cost you nothing now and ultimately costs you everything.

COUNT THE COST: Which road am I actually walking?

2

The Good & Bad Tree

THE EVIDENCE OF FOLLOWING JESUS

Matthew 7:15-23 (CSB)

15 "Be on your guard against false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves. 16 You'll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. 18 A good tree can't produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19 Every tree that doesn't produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 So you'll recognize them by their fruit.

21 "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 in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?' 23 Then I will announce to them, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!'"

- The danger is not only following someone whose teaching is false. The danger is having a profession of faith that is false.

They knew the vocabulary. They knew the ministry. They even knew the supernatural. But they did not know Christ.

CHECK THE FRUIT: What is my life producing?

3

The Wise & Foolish Builder

THE FOUNDATION OF FOLLOWING JESUS

Matthew 7:24-29 (CSB)

24 "Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn't act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash."

28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, 29 because he was teaching them like one who had authority, and not like their scribes.

Hearing the sermon is not the same thing as building on it.

- One heard and obeyed. One heard and walked away unchanged.
- The storm hits both houses. The difference is what happens when it does.

Eventually the road reaches its destination. Eventually the tree reveals its fruit. Eventually the storm reveals the foundation.

BUILD ON THE ROCK: What am I building my life on?

NOTES