



Build Wisely
 CTM + Put on Your Hiking Boots
 Matthew 7 Pt.3
 Discipleship Guide

This guide is an invitation to follow Jesus with greater purpose and hope. It will help you to explore the scriptures and challenge you to live out your faith. Each week we'd love for you to think about how you relate: **Up** (with God), **In** (with church) and **Out** (with neighbors).

Weekly Questions:

- How is God getting my attention? For help, think about these areas:
 - How are you living up with God?
 - How are you living in community with other followers of Jesus?
 - How are you living out on mission with your neighbors?
- What are you going to do about it?

Matthew 7:13-23

The overarching questions for this series are: How do we face change when the old maps no longer work? And the tools we brought with us won't get us to where we need to go?

- We often read these passages in connection to the afterlife but Jesus situates them in context with how we live in the here and now.
- Read Matthew 7:13-23 in the NIV and The Message. How might we read Jesus' instructions and teachings about the good life in the Sermon on the Mount as the narrow gate? How might a life lived differently than Jesus' guidance in the Sermon on the Mount feel spacious but actually lead us to destruction? How would you describe the difference between the narrow and wide gate?
- Why does Jesus focus on the kind of fruit people produce with their lives? How is fruitfulness different mere existence as a treat? What is some of the good fruit that you produce in your life? What is some of the bad fruit that you need help from God to change?
- Dallas Willard says: "Your system is perfectly designed to yield the result you are getting." This is a profound though painful truth that must be respected by all who have an interest in Christian spiritual formation, whether for themselves as individuals or for groups or institutions." What part of your life system is yielding a result that you don't find helpful or fruitful?
- Jesus challenges the listeners in 7:21-23 (and The Message is really helpful here) to wrestle with our motivations. The words of our mouth and even spectacular actions (prophesying, exorcising and healing) are not enough if our hearts are in the wrong place. What do you do to examine your motivations?
- How do you examine someone else's motivations? How can we connect our motivations to our discipleship?

After reflection, what are you going to do about what you learned this week?