

The Road Ahead

Sermon on the Mount Series — Part 12

Matthew 7:12–20–Pastor Larry Hof

Key Truth: Jesus has shown us how to live. Now He brings us to a decision: **Which road will I take, and who will I follow?**

I. The Golden Rule — Living What We've Learned

Matthew 7:12

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

Jesus begins with **"therefore."** He is bringing together what He has taught throughout the Sermon on the Mount.

The Golden Rule isn't simply about **being nice**. It is the life of Christ being lived through us.

Look Back at What Jesus Has Taught

- **Attitude** — Poor in spirit, meek, merciful, pure, peacemaking.
- **Salt** — Be savory to those you find unsavory.
- **Light** — When you don't see their light, show them His.
- **Righteousness** — Look to Jesus, not your own goodness.
- **Temperament** — Don't let anger control you.
- **Purity** — See others as people who belong to God.
- **Marriage** — Love faithfully and pursue restoration.
- **Your Word** — Say what you mean and do what you say.
- **Retaliation** — Show Christ instead of getting even.
- **Love** — Love even those who reject you.
- **Giving, Prayer & Fasting** — Do it for God, not recognition.
- **Treasure** — Where your treasure is, your heart will follow.
- **Worry** — Seek God and trust Him for your needs.
- **Judgment** — Examine yourself before judging others.
- **Prayer** — Ask in obedience and **IN Christ**.

Statement:

Jesus IS the Golden Rule. If the world cannot see Jesus, God desires that they see Him living through us.

Notes:

II. Where Do I Go?

Matthew 7:13–14

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction...”

“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

Jesus puts **two roads** before us.

The Strait Gate

Narrow Way → Way to Life

The Wide Gate

Broad Way → Crowded Way → Leads to Destruction

The broad road gives us plenty of room to roam.

The narrow road calls us to **follow Christ**.

Statement:

The question isn't simply, “Where do I want to go?” The question is, “Am I willing to follow Jesus to get there?”

Notes:

III. Who Do I Follow?

Matthew 7:15–20

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”

Jesus warns us that not everyone offering direction is leading us toward Him.

Beware of False Direction

Sometimes the false prophet we're listening to is **ourselves**—declaring who we will be and what we will do apart from Christ.

But **Christ is the Truth**.

Supporting Scripture: Deuteronomy 13:1–5

Ask:

Is this voice leading me toward Christ—or away from Him?

Is this shepherd interested in me—or merely what I can do for him?

IV. Follow the Fruit

Matthew 7:16–20

“Ye shall know them by their fruits.”

Jesus gives us a way to discern our **direction and our director**.

Fruit of the Flesh

Galatians 5:19–21

Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22–23

**Love • Joy • Peace • Longsuffering • Gentleness • Goodness • Faith • Meekness •
Temperance**

This isn't permission to inspect everyone else's life so we can decide how to treat them.

It's a call to **discern where we are going and who we are following**.

Statement:

Don't use somebody's fruit to determine how you'll treat them. Use fruit to discern where you're being led.

Notes:

The Road Ahead

Jesus said:

“I am the door...”

— John 10:7–14

There is a **Gate**.

There is a **Way**.

There is a **Shepherd**.

And they all point us to **Jesus Christ**.

Take It Home

Where am I going?

Who am I following?

What fruit is that direction producing?

Can the world see Jesus through the way I live?

Where we go and who we follow is up to us. Discern wisely—our choices have eternal consequences.