

Storm Warning!

Matthew 7:13-27

- I. A Disciple's Characteristics: 8 Blessings (5:1-12)
 - II. A Disciple's Influence: 2 Metaphors (5:13-16)
 - III. A Disciple's Righteousness: Six Contrasting Illustrations (5:17-48)
 - IV. A Disciple's Piety: Three Religious Practices (6:1-18): Giving, Praying, Fasting
 - V. A Disciple's Commitments: Four Contrasting Choices (6:19-34)
 - VI. A Disciple's Relationships (7:1-12)
 - VII. The Challenge to Commitment (7:13-27)
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A. Two Paths (7:13-14)

1. Identifying the Alternatives

"MY WAY"	THE OPTIONS	KING'S WAY
	Only two Gates	
	Only two Roads	
	Only two Crowds	
	Only two Destinations	

2. Assessing the Alternatives

a. Why is it so hard to choose the better path?

- 1) Limitations of _____ –
- 2) The influence of the _____
 - The reasonableness of " _____ - _____ "
 - The pressure to _____
- 3) The influence of the _____
 - I want to do things _____
 - I want the _____ of others

b. Why choose the small gate, the narrow road?

- 1) _____ is narrow.
- 2) The narrow way is not only confining, it is _____.
- 3) The main thing about the road is its _____.

B. Two Trees (7:15-20): Don't be misdirected to the wrong path by false prophets.

C. Two Claims (21-23): Do not be misled by the self-deception of pseudo-discipleship (false professor).

D. Two Houses (24-27)

1. What is seen: _____
 - Permanent houses
 - Similar structures
 - Same environment/stresses
2. What is unseen: _____
 - a. Foundations
 - b. Destinies
3. The Point: A Storm Warning
 - a. Everyone is building a “house” of some sort. All of us choose a _____.
 - 1) Examples of “sand”:
 - 2) The time to choose and build a foundation is _____ to the storms.
 - b. Every foundation will be tested.
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
 - 5)
 - c. Some will stand; others will fail.

Summary:

1. There are two, and only two ways: one ends in the kingdom of God; the other ends in destruction.
 2. The way to life is characterized by _____ to Jesus and a practical conformity to all his teaching.
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Concluding Observations

- A. Jesus concludes The Sermon on the Mount serious warnings:
 - To those travelers who follow the broad way – destruction (13-14)
 - To those “trees” that do not bear good fruit – cut down and burned (15-20)
 - To those pretend disciples who look and sound good – denial of relationship and rejection (21-23)
 - To those home builders who choose a foundation of sand – obliteration (24-25)
- B. Jesus’ warnings were addressed to three audiences:
 - He warns _____ to examine themselves to be sure that they are truly members of the kingdom of heaven, not simply those who profess allegiance;
 - He warns the _____ to consider carefully the alternative of following him or following the popular religious leadership;
 - He warns the religious _____ about their culpability for leading people in the wrong direction.
- C. While it is true that no man enters the kingdom because of his obedience, it is equally true that no man enters the kingdom who is _____ (1 John 1:6; 2:4; James 1:22-25; 2:14-20).
- D. The obedience Jesus calls for is not _____.
- E. Bottom line: _____ (Luke 6:48)