

Sermon Reflections

Two Ways to Live **Matthew 7:13-19**

Summary: Be careful. Fake disciples abound. True disciples only listen to Jesus; they obey King Jesus.

1. Two Gates: Both Promise Heaven (vv. 13-14)

- Since all religions think they have “the gate” into heaven, discuss what Jesus meant by mentioning only two gates, the narrow and the wide.

2. Two prophets: Both Claim to Speak for God (vv. 15-20)

- When these verses direct us to examine a person’s fruit for truth, about whom is Jesus speaking?
- In these verses, is bearing bad fruit the same thing as sinning? Why or why not?
- How is evaluating fruit *not* contradicting Jesus’ earlier admonition of 7:1-2 to *not* judge?
- Can a godly Christian speaker teach an error? How can we know for certain that the interesting author we’re reading or listening to isn’t a false prophet?

3. Two Confessions: Both Confess Jesus as Lord (vv. 21-23)

- In verse 21: the person calling out “Lord, Lord, ...” — on what is he basing his assumed acceptance into heaven? What essential godly heart attitude is missing?
- In light of verses 22-23, how can we be certain that Jesus won’t say this to us on that day? What Scriptures help us understand this?

4. Two Builders: Both Listen to Jesus’ Words (vv. 24-27)

- Read James 1:22 and Romans 2:13. How do these verses bring additional understanding to this passage?

5. Two Teachers: Only One has Real Authority (vv. 28-29)

- The crowds recognized that Jesus’ authority differed from that of their regular teachers. Do you?
- In what way do you treat God’s word as more authoritative and valuable than other wise teachers you may hear or read?
- Jesus had previously indirectly mentioned His authority in chapter 5 by saying, “You have heard that it was said...” and then, “but I say to you...” What was He clarifying here?