



Matthew 7:13-29

# THE FOUNDATION OF A KINGDOM CITIZEN

[Each person] is confronted by two ways only, and if we are not on the strait and narrow way, we are on the wide and broad way. So indecision and a failure to commit ourselves means that we are not on the narrow way. Passive resistance is resistance; if we are not for Him we are against Him. Indecision is fatal, because it means wrong decision. There is no alternative. It is either the narrow or the broad way. ...To enter the narrow way means to follow in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is an invitation to live as He lived; it is an invitation to become increasingly like Him... Do not think of what you have to leave... Do not think of the losses, do not think of the sacrifices and the sufferings. You lose nothing, but you gain everything. Look at Him, follow Him, and realize that ultimately you are going to be with Him, and to look into His blessed face and enjoy Him to all eternity. He is on this way, and that is enough.

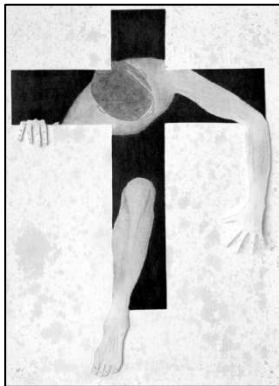
—D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

## The Purpose of the Sermon on the Mount:

- To characterize the true nature of a kingdom citizen.
- To confront people with the perfect righteousness of God
- To confront people with the condition of their own hearts.
- To call people to a life submitted to Jesus, the King.

After describing the true kingdom citizen (5:1-16) and confronting people with the true righteousness of God and the true condition of their own hearts (5:17-7:12), Jesus now calls for a decision.

## THE DECISION (7:13-14)



*Enter through the narrow gate!*

Jesus calls for a one-time, decisive choice (cf. Deut. 30:19; Josh. 24:15; 1 Kgs 18:21).

- It is \_\_\_\_\_ alone.
- It is \_\_\_\_\_ alone.
- It is \_\_\_\_\_ alone.

The narrow gate does not lead to an easy road but a difficult one. But there are two good reasons for choosing this narrow way:

1. The narrow way leads to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The broad way leads to \_\_\_\_\_.

*The two routes lead in opposite directions, and their destinations are totally apart. Without using those words, this saying sets before us the radical alternative of heaven or hell. —R. T. France*

**Narrow.** Greek, *stenos*, from *stenazo*, “to groan,” thus, to be squeezed in a narrow space.

**Difficult.** Greek, *thlibo*, “to press hard upon; to suffer affliction due to the pressure of circumstances or the antagonism of people.”

*Jesus commits the awful modern “sin” of narrow-mindedness.*

—David Guzik

*Resolution 1: I will live for God.  
Resolution 2: If no one else does, I still will. —Jonathan Edwards*

*The safest road to hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts. —C. S. Lewis*

*There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. —Solomon (Prov. 14:12)*

## THE DANGERS (7:15-23)

Jesus warns of two dangers as we choose our road in life:



1. False \_\_\_\_\_.

They look good on the \_\_\_\_\_ but are ravenous wolves on the inside (cf. Jer. 23:16-32; Matt. 24:24; Acts 20:28-30; Rom. 16:17-18; 2 Cor. 11:13-14; 2 Peter 2:1-3).

They look good at the \_\_\_\_\_ but over time their fruit is displayed (cf. Gal. 5:16-23; 1 Tim. 1:3-11; 3:1-16; 1 John 4:1-6).

2. False \_\_\_\_\_.

*“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (7:21-23)*

## THE DIFFERENCE (7:24-27)

Jesus ends His sermon with an illustration. There are two builders with two houses with the same basic appearance in the same area. Yet there is one crucial difference: \_\_\_\_\_.



We all go through \_\_\_\_\_.

We all are building a \_\_\_\_\_.

We all choose a \_\_\_\_\_.

*Sound doctrine and holy living are the marks of true prophets.*

—J. C. Ryle (1816-1900)

**Ravenous.** Greek, *harpax*, “living on prey; grasping; greedy.”

*The Lord knows them that are His by name, but we must know them by their character.*

—Matthew Henry (1662-1714)

*A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross.* —H. Richard Niebuhr

*The worst of all deceptions is self-deception.* —Plato (427-347 BC)

*If you look at the history of the Church throughout the centuries you will find that false and counterfeit Christianity has always been a hindrance to, and the greatest enemy of, true spirituality... We should be much more concerned about the state of the Church herself than about the state of the world [1 Cor. 5:9-13].*

—D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

*The Master Himself had selected twelve choice men to be nearest to His person, and to act, as it were, the prime ministers of His kingdom; yet there was a devil amongst the twelve, a devil in the church of which Jesus was pastor. Judas, the treasurer of the apostles, was also a son of perdition.* —Charles Spurgeon

*Jesus presents Himself as the one who decides who does and does not enter the kingdom of heaven, and even more remarkably the basis for that entry is their relationship with Him, whether or not He knew them.* —R. T. France