

Matthew 7: 13-20 God's Righteousness

Last weeks teaching

- Not judging others lest we be judged.
- Asking, seeking and knocking for souls.
- The Golden rule. Doing unto others what you want them to do to you.

Conclusion on God's righteousness

13 Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

14 "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

- In the Old Testament there are several references to the two choices we have as Christian travelers. The road to life or the road to death e.g. (Deut. 30:15, 19; Ps. 1; Jer. 21:8).
- The "narrow" road "leads to life," namely, life in the kingdom. The "broad" road "leads to destruction," namely, death and hell.
- Few will enter the kingdom compared with the many who will perish.
- Jesus clearly did not believe in the doctrine of universalism that is growing in popularity today, the belief that everyone will eventually end up in heaven.
- **Universalism** is the theological view arguing that all persons will ultimately be saved. Some also teach that there is no such thing as a literal hell or eternal punishment.
- "Belief in universal salvation is at least as old as Christianity itself and may be associated with early Gnostic teachers. The first clearly Universalist writings, however, date from the Greek Church fathers, most notably Clement of Alexandria, his student Origen, and Gregory of Nyssa. Of these, the teachings of Origen, who believed that even the devil might eventually be saved, were the most influential.
- Entrance through the narrow gate onto the narrow way will eventually lead a person into the kingdom. The beginning of a life of discipleship (the gate) and the process of discipleship (the way) are both restrictive and both involve persecution.

- **15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.**
- Jesus here sounded a warning that the Old Testament prophets also gave, about "false prophets".
- He did not explain exactly what they would teach, only that they would deceptively misrepresent divine revelation. This covers a wide spectrum of false teachers. Their motive was ultimately self-serving, and the end of their victims would be destruction.

Ezekiel 13:4: O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts. **5:** Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD. **6:** They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them: and they have made *others* to hope that they would confirm the word. **7:** Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The LORD saith *it*; albeit I have not spoken? **8:** Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I *am* against you, saith the Lord GOD. **9:** And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that divine lies: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I *am* the Lord GOD. **10**¶Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and *there was* no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered *mortar*:

- **16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles (weeds with thorns)? 17“Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.**
- **18“A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.**
- **19“Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**
- **20“Therefore by their fruits you will know them.**
- Fruits are the best indicator of what type of tree a tree is. It is what other people see (or sample or taste) that leads them to conclude something about the nature and identity of what bears the fruit. "
- In false teachers, "fruits" represent their doctrines and deeds (Jer. 23:9-15). Jesus said His disciples would be able to recognize false prophets "by their fruits": their teachings and their actions. Sometimes the true character of a person remains hidden for some time.
- Prophets true to God's Word produce righteous conduct, but false prophets

who disregard God's Word produce unrighteous conduct

- A false prophet can only produce bad works, even though his works may appear good, superficially or temporarily.
- The end of "every tree that does not bear good fruit" is "the fire" (v. 19). Likewise the false prophet who does bad works, even though they look good, suffers destructive judgment
- The words and works of a prophet eventually reveal his true character, just as surely as the fruit of a tree reveals its identity (v. 20).
- Typically, a false prophet rejects God's Word because he is an unbeliever. However, even in the Old Testament, there were a few true prophets who lied about God's Word (e.g., 1 Kings 13:1-32).

There is evidently something wrong with the bride of Christ in Uganda. The men in whose custody the Groom (Jesus) left His bride have mistreated her, raped and abused her, prostituting her for financial gain. They have turned her eyes away from her Groom and have led her onto a course full of self-gratification and pursuit of worldly pleasures. These charlatans are utterly foolish, for they forget what the Scriptures say, "You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God." (James 4:4). That is what this lot is. Enemies of the same God they claim to preach! You foolish people! Hear what the Lord God says to you! Do you not know the judgment coming upon you, that even as you "mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh" (2 Peter 2:18), the blackest darkness is prepared for you (2 Peter 2:17)?!? You are dragging God's Perfect and Holy name in the mud and you think somehow you shall be spared! You are defiling His Bride and think you somehow will escape his judgment! Woe unto you! Hear what the Lord says, you liars, thieves and disgraceful beings, "If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit." (2 Peter 2:20-22).

Repent of your lies, foolishness, wickedness and fraudulent gimmicks. You can play with anything else, but do not play with God's elect. This body you deceive and use to line your pockets with gold is a body that was purchased by the Blood of Jesus! If you do not turn from your ways, you will not believe what is coming to you. The wrath of God, this God whose name you shamelessly blaspheme, is upon your heads. Turn away now if you know what is good for you. Deny yourselves, take up your crosses and follow the Lord. Otherwise you are as good as finished! And although you lot make me utterly nauseous and sick to the

core, I love you and pray for you. I pray for your repentance! It is hard and sometimes I wish you could all just disappear, but who am I? God calls us to love and pray for our enemies. You are the enemies of the Church and if not anything, I will love and pray because I have been commanded to by the Lord Jesus. My feelings do not matter. My obedience is the only thing that counts.

And to the Bride of the Most Holy God, my heart breaks for you. Wake up! Read and study your bibles! Deny yourselves! Carry your crosses! Follow the Lord! The Christian life is not about how many cars and houses you have, or how big your house is, or how much money you have in the bank! No! Follow the Lord and leave these kleptomaniacs claiming to know God! Get into good bible-teaching churches and grow in the Word!