

Matthew 7:13-29

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

¹⁵ “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Feb. 18, 2018: The Fork in the Road

A Watershed Moment

What is a watershed moment? How do rivers illustrate what can happen with a major life decision?

Can you think of an example of such a moment in your life?

There are (only) Two Kinds of people (13-29)

13-14 – Jesus says that there are 2 ways – how are they different?

15-20 – There are 2 kinds of prophets – how are they different?

21-23 – There are 2 kinds of “believers” – how are they different?

24-27 – There are 2 kinds of houses – how are they different?

God is with us on the Journey

13-14 – What does God provide us on “the way?”

(Matthew 28:20, John 14:16-18)

15-20 – What does God provide us, in terms of teachers & fruit?

(Mark 4:26-29, 1 Corinthians 3:6-7)

21-23 – How does God provide so that we can live in obedience?

(John 1:18, 17:3)

24-27 – What does God provide us for our “house?”

(1 Corinthians 3:9-11, Ephesians 2:19-22)

An Invitation to Follow

How does one begin following Jesus? How is it shown, publicly?

What steps have you taken toward following Jesus?

(Mark 1:14-17, Acts 2:38, Romans 10:9-10, Romans 6:1-7)

After the initial steps, what does following Jesus involve?

(Matthew 28:19-20, 1 John 2:5-6)

How does Jesus describe the life of His followers?

(Matthew 11:25-30, John 15:1-7)