

Sermon Outline

“The Call to Discipleship,” Matthew: The Life and Words of Jesus, Part 24 – Matthew 7:13-23 – Robin Boisvert – November 18, 2012

1. Introduction ~ An Overview of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-7:29)

- A. Two different kinds of people listen to the Sermon on the Mount: followers – those who are committed to Jesus – and the crowds who are merely interested in him.
- B. The Sermon on the Mount comes in three parts:
 - I. The introduction (5:3-17) which shows the humble disposition and the blessed condition of those who follow Jesus.
 - II. In the main body of the sermon (5:17-7:12) Jesus lays out what it means to be his follower. Followers are righteous: they obey God’s will. The Scripture is clear that righteousness is a gift that is received through faith in Christ’s finished work (Romans 3:23-26, 4:23-25). It is equally clear that those who are saved through faith in Christ demonstrate obedience to Christ. The demands of Christ found in this sermon should provoke disciples to recognize their spiritual poverty and drive them to seek their Father’s grace.
 - III. In Jesus’s concluding words (7:13-23) he issues a powerful and personal call to discipleship by describing two gates, two trees, two disciples, two foundations, and two destinies

2. Two Gates and Two Ways

- A. The gate that leads to life is narrow. Like a turnstile, it allows only one through at a time. No one can make the decision to follow Jesus for you.
- B. The way of discipleship is confining: you can’t do whatever you want. You must follow Christ’s will. But it is also a way of joy because Christ is there.
- C. Why would anyone take the broad road that leads to destruction? Because they don’t know where it leads (Proverbs 14:12). Jesus warns us by showing us the two different destinations.

3. Two Trees

- A. Jesus warns us about false prophets and likens them to wolves in sheep’s clothing. They claim to speak from God, but in actuality they seek to exploit the sheep.
- B. Jesus says false teachers can be known by their fruits. A bad tree will produce bad fruit: the corrupt life and doctrine of false teachers will expose them as pretenders. Their destiny is eternal judgment.

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- C. In light of this, a disciple must be discerning. We are not called to be heresy hunters but we are called to be fruit inspectors.

4. Two Disciples

- A. There are those who will be surprised at the final judgment. They believe they will receive a favorable verdict but will instead find themselves denounced as workers of lawlessness. They will be exposed as false disciples.
- B. The false disciples say words that are true and even do works that appear to be good. False disciples, however, fail to do the will of the Father. They do not know Christ.

5. Two Foundations

- A. What is the difference between the two builders? One hears the words of Jesus and doesn't do them; the other hears the words of Jesus and obeys. The one who hears without doing fails to do the Father's will, he bears bad fruit, and he goes through the wide gate onto the broad path that ends in destruction. The one who hears and obeys does the Father's will, he bears good fruit, and he goes through the narrow gate that leads to life.
- B. This passage invites self-examination. Do this with a trusted friend or a pastor.
- C. This passage calls for a decision. "I have set before you death and life, blessing and cursing. Therefore, choose life that you and your children may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life." (Deuteronomy 30:19)

6. Conclusion

- A. Later in this gospel Jesus says, "Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28-30).
- B. What seems impossible to us is more than bearable when we are yoked to the Lord Jesus. There is a yoke. There is a path. But it's meant to be walked in union with the good shepherd – Jesus himself.

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Fellowship Starters

1. Take time as a Care Group to read Matthew 7:13-23.
2. In this passage Jesus makes it clear that there are only two ways: a narrow gate and a broad one, a good tree and a bad one, a false disciple and a true one, and a good foundation and a bad one. One leads to life, while the other leads to destruction. How does Jesus' teaching compare to our cultures notions about spirituality?
3. In view of Jesus' teaching on false prophets, what steps should we take to strengthen our discernment?
4. According to this passage, what is the difference between the true disciple and the false one?
5. Has this passage provoked you to self-examination? If so, do you have a trusted friend or pastor with whom you can walk through that process?
6. How does Matthew 11:28-30 shed light on Jesus call to discipleship?