

# Huh?

Part Twelve: *two ways*

May 28, 2023

Throughout his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus compares the scribes' and Pharisees' flawed righteousness with God's perfect righteousness. At the conclusion of his day-long sermon, Jesus calls his listeners to choose whom they are going to follow. They could continue to follow the unrighteous scribes and Pharisees, or they could choose to follow Christ and learn how to become perfect like Him.

- **In Matt. 7:13-27, Jesus uses four illustrations to show two different ways to live.**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Jesus shows us two different gates.**

**Vs. 13-14**

First, Jesus tells us that we must choose whether we will walk through the narrow or the wide gate. The narrow gate leads to a narrow road that leads to eternal life in Heaven, and the wide gate leads to a broad road that leads to eternal death in Hell (Psalm 1:6).

*What is the narrow gate?*

- The narrow gate is Jesus!            John 10:7-10; 14:1-6

We proclaim Jesus is the only way to be saved because the Bible says Jesus is the only way for us to be saved (Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:3-6)! There are not lots of ways to Heaven; there is only one way – Jesus! He is the narrow gate that leads to eternal life!

*Two things to remember about the two gates...*

1. Every person must choose which gate they are going to walk through.

The Jews believed that they were in God's kingdom because they were Jews, but you cannot enter God's kingdom in a group, family, or nation (Romans 3:9-20). The narrow gate only allows one person through at a time (John 3).

2. It is easy to walk through the wide gate, but it is difficult to walk through the narrow gate.

The wide gate is easy to walk through and the broad road is easy to walk on. All you have to do to enter the wide gate is love the things of this world and please yourself. But those that walk the narrow road must choose to die to self and live for the Lord Jesus (Matt. 5:3-6).

**2<sup>nd</sup> - Jesus shows us two different teachers.**

**Vs. 15-20**

After he explains how to enter the kingdom of God, Jesus gives a warning about false teachers, which he refers to as ferocious wolves who appear harmless as sheep (Acts 20:29-31; 2 Peter 2:12; Jude 10). Jesus wants us to evaluate our teachers the same way we evaluate trees. Good trees produce good fruit and bad trees produce bad fruit. Good teachers live and teach the truth; bad teachers live and teach lies (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 2).

False teachers pose as God's spokesmen, but they care nothing for God or people. They are self-righteous, self-serving people that did not live for God (John 8:43-47). They are false shepherds that lead people away from God (Matthew 23).

**3<sup>rd</sup> - Jesus shows us two different followers.**

**Vs. 21-23**

After he warns us about false teachers, Jesus warns us about false followers. A false follower is someone who claims to be Christian but is not following Christ. Jesus says there will be false followers that will brag about their good works and beg Him for mercy at the Great White Throne Judgment (1 John 3:6-10; Revelation 20:11-15). But their sinful words and actions will prove them to be false followers (Matt. 25:1-13; John 8:31).

**4<sup>th</sup> - Jesus shows us two different foundations.**

**Vs. 24-27**

After he describes two different followers, Jesus describes two different foundations. A life built on Jesus – the Solid Rock – will stand strong when tested, but a life built on sand (superficial, external, always changing religious traditions) will collapse when tested (Hebrews 9:27).

*What does Jesus want you to do with the four truths he presents in his conclusion to his Sermon on the Mount?* First, Jesus wants you to choose Him for salvation. Then, he wants you to choose to live by His teachings. Third, Christ wants you to be an obedient follower that does his complete will. And finally, Christ wants you to build your life on Him, depending on Him for power, protection, and provision.