

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: WEEK 5 – MATTHEW 7:13-29

“Responding in Real Time.”

These final verses of Matthew 7 require us to consider a set of options that Jesus gives his listeners. Like his audience there on the mountain with Him, Jesus calls us to a response in real life: to not only listen to his words and be impressed with his teaching, but to listen to what he says and put his words into practice. He calls us to make a real-life, real-time response to what we have learned during our study these past few weeks. Are you ready?

1. Matt. 7: 13-14 – The Narrow Way

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

A. Jesus puts before his listeners two options – You must choose

- 1) A Narrow (small) Gate vs. _____
- 2) A Narrow Road vs. _____
- 3) Life vs. _____
- 4) Many vs. _____

B. The Option theme forms the Heart of the Gospel – From Genesis to Revelation

- 1) Gen. 2:16-17 –
- 2) Joshua 24:15 –
- 3) John 10:9, 10 –
- 4) Revelation 22:14, 15 -

C. The gate is Narrow, Demanding - because it requires a person to turn from the Wide Gate and Broad path that leads to Destruction and that many will find.

Jesus calls us to obedience to the life that he outlined:

Matthew 5:3-12 – in the Beatitudes, Jesus describes the _____ of members of the Kingdom of Heaven

Matt. 5:17-20 – Our _____ must surpass that of the religious leaders

Matt. 5:21-48 – Jesus teaches to follow the _____, not the letter of the law.

Matt. 6:19-34 as Jesus calls us to turn from “treasures on earth to treasures in _____, and to seek first _____ (Mt. 6:33).

Matthew 22 34-37 – living out the “Jesus Law,” and the Golden Rule of 7:12:

D. The two paths – the Narrow and the Broad - presents two options:

1) We are called to make a morally serious decision: **It matters which choice you make because** _____

2) Is Jesus being unnecessarily exclusive? Are only a few chosen to know Him?

3) Luke 13:23-23:

E. A Kingdom Ethic: What we choose here will determine what will happen to us in eternity. The options are life or destruction. To enter the narrow gate is to enter into a relationship with Jesus, the King of the Kingdom. To follow him or not is our choice.

2. Matt. 7:15-23 – Works vs. Words

7:15 Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's cloth, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them..."

A. Watch out for Deceivers – Those who teach and lead others astray.

B. Be aware of those who are Deceived - Those who say they know Jesus but do not.

C. The Kingdom Ethic: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. "

How is this a continuation of what Jesus was saying about the "Narrow Gate?"

3. Matt. 7:21-27 – The Two Builders

"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like...(or who hears and 'does not put them into practice...)

A. The Wise Builder -

B. The Foolish Builder -

C. The Consequences are Specific:

D. The **Kingdom Ethic?** What is the Option?

4. Matt. 7:28-29 - The Reaction of the Crowd -

Jesus calls us to respond to this same message. Is there a Real Life, Real Time response you need to make to the lessons we have learned in the Sermon on the Mount?