

The Gospel of Matthew

"Enter by the Narrow Gate" Responding to Jesus' Words

Matthew 7:13-29

Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it.

For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it."

Matthew 7:13-29

Overview: Two themes

1. There are only two ways, one ends in the kingdom, the other in destruction
2. The way of life is characterized by obedience to Jesus and conformity to His teaching

A Call to Respond

1. Enter by the Narrow Gate

➤ *implications of the image*

- there are ultimately only two paths, and only one leads to life

A Call to Respond

1. Enter by the Narrow Gate

➤ *implications of the image*

- the way of destruction is very spacious, accommodating and populated

A Call to Respond

1. Enter by the Narrow Gate

➤ *implications of the image*

- the way of life is constricted, not easy and not popular

A Call to Respond

1. Enter by the Narrow Gate

➤ *meaning of the image*

- entering the narrow gate comes first by a poverty of spirit and submission in faith to Jesus as Savior....
- a faith expressed in a growing personal conformity to Jesus' words

A Call to Respond

2. Beware of False Prophets

➤ *four observations*

- they always exist in abundance in the professing church

A Call to Respond

2. Beware of False Prophets

➤ *four observations*

- they are deceptive ("sheep's clothing") yet deadly ("ravenous wolves")

A Call to Respond

2. Beware of False Prophets

➤ *four observations*

- they are "false" because their teachings distort or deny what Jesus taught

A Call to Respond

2. Beware of False Prophets

➤ *four observations*

- they are recognizable by their "fruits"; their true character cannot be concealed