

Spiritual How-to's

Final warnings -Two Gates & Two Prophets

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INTRO. In these next 2 video lessons, we will conclude our study of The Beatitudes from Matthew 5-7. **Those beatitudes conclude with 4 warnings & 4 choices, and so will we.** This week we will look at the first 2 warnings and choices we all must make:

- 2 gates & roads
- 2 kinds of prophets

I. Lets' read the first passage – Matthew 7:13-14

So we have: **a narrow gate** to enter by, that is hard, found by few and leads to life. And we **have a wide, easy gate**, that many enter but it leads to destruction.

A. **The wide, easy gate is that of living for yourself, apart from God.**

1. There is a way that seems right, but the end is death. Pro. 14:12; 16:25; 12:15
2. Each man doing what is right in his own eyes. Jud. 21:25

B. This wide, easy gate says **“all paths lead to god”**

1. “Let each man follow his own path”
2. **Coexist** – Islam, pacifism, gay, Judaism, paganism. Taoism, Christianity
 - a. No religion is above the other, they all should coexist
 - b. This implies, I don't care of you are _____, we should live as if there are no differences between us.

C. **Along the there are no moral absolutes, because there is no absolute God**

D. **Relativism rules.** Everything is relative to something else. Therefore it is your truth, but not my truth.

E. Be kind, be tolerant, do good works and your vibe & energy will be positive.

F. **But not all destinations are good and this one leads to destruction. Don't be fooled.**

1. It's easy to get caught in this web, as there are many spinning it
2. It's wide open with promises, hopes and ideals that are not scriptural.
3. **BEWARE.**

II. **The narrow gate that is a hard way, found by few and leads to life.**

A. This is the one where **Jesus is the gate.** Jn. 10:7,9 The only way in.

1. You may not agree and you may not like it, **but there is only one way to God.**
2. This is truth. Jesus is the way the truth and the life. Jn. 14:6

B. Only through Him do we find life. Life here and life after death, in eternity with Him. Jn. 10:9; Jn. 3:15-21

C. You don't have to believe this truth for it to still be true. But it is absolute.

D. It is a hard word for some and yet few others will accept it and find life.

E. Which are you? This is our first warning. Narrow gate or wide gate?

III. **The next warning we find in Matthew 7:15-20**

Our bible's **title it a tree and it's fruit**, but it's really about **2 kinds of prophets.**

The first warning was about 2 gates, the 2nd warning is about 2 kinds of prophets.

Let's read it...

A. BEWARE of false prophets!

1. They look like sheep, gentle, docile, followers
2. But they are ravenous wolves. Wolves in sheep clothing it you will.
3. **These are people, spiritual leaders, respected religious leaders**
4. They have the appearance of good, but don't look too closely.
5. Behind it all, **under the veneer are deceivers, filled with self interest, pride & prestige.**
6. It's all about them, not God, the Bible or building up God's people

B. How can you tell if they're sheep or wolves? By what comes from their life. By their fruit. Not their smooth words.

1. Fruit is measured by actions, evidence, what they produce.
2. **Eventually their fruit reveals who they really are.**
3. **If they're healthy they'll produce good fruit and you will see it, taste it & enjoy it.**
4. **If they're diseased**, bad fruit or no fruit will be seen. Only empty, shallow, impotent words and deeds.
5. **A diseased tree**, person, prophet, spiritual leader cannot produce good fruit.
6. **A good tree**, healthy prophet, spiritual leader will have good evidence surrounding them. Their words show goodness, and are backed by their actions that show goodness. Their family shows goodness.

C. This 2nd warning is for us today.

1. **There are voices, strong religious and even spiritual ones speaking. Beware. Check their fruit.** Does it measure up to the Word of God? If not, they are a false, unhealthy trees/prophets.
2. Keep checking people's fruit. **Do their actions measure up** to God's words and do we see healthy fruit in their lives.

D. Beware. This warning reminds us that the diseased fruit and fruit tree/prophet **will be thrown into the fire.** They will end in destruction, just like the wide, easy road and gate people.

IV. These 2 warnings as well as the last 2 we will look at next week, have 1 thing in common.

They present us with a choice. We are either with Jesus or against Him. There is NO MIDDLE GROUND.

- A. **These are days of deciding** – wide gate, narrow gate? False prophets? Good fruit, bad fruit? With Jesus? Against Jesus?
- B. **Days of sifting are upon us** and the days of compromise are coming to an end.
- C. **Would you prayerfully consider these 2 final warnings** and take action?