

The Straight and Narrow

Do not turn to the right or to the left



A Call to Repentance

Matthew 7:13-27

¹³ "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

¹⁵ "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

The Narrow Gate

▲ The broad way

Matthew 7:13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and **broad** is the road that leads to destruction and many enter through it.

▲ Do not turn from the narrow way, to the right or to the left

Matthew 7:14 But small is the gate and **narrow** the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Deuteronomy 5:32 So be careful to do what the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the **right** or to the **left**.

Luke 5:32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to **repentance**."

False Prophets

▲ Wolves in sheep's clothing are recognized by their fruit

Matthew 7:15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious **wolves**. ¹⁶ By their **fruit** you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Likewise, every good tree bears **good fruit**, but a bad tree bears **bad fruit**. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear **bad fruit**, and a bad tree cannot bear **good fruit**.

▲ Judgment by the fruit to recognize them

Matthew 7:19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the **fire**. ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will **recognize** them.

▲ You must be born again

John 3:3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are **born again**."

Galatians 5:22 KJV But the **fruit** of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **longsuffering**, gentleness, goodness, **faith**, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

▲ True disciples grow fruit from within

Psalms 51:10 KJV Create in me a clean **heart**, O God; and renew a right **spirit** within me. ¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy **holy spirit** from me. ¹² Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

False Disciples

▲ Do God's will, not just say "Lord, Lord"

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, '**Lord, Lord**,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who **does** the **will** of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, '**Lord, Lord**, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?'

▲ I never knew you

Matthew 7:23 Then I will tell them plainly, '**I never knew you**. Away from me, you evildoers!'

▲ Stand or fall according to your practice

Matthew 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into **practice** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into **practice** is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."