

Sermon Notes - The Sermon on the Mount: Part 9

The Narrow and Wide Roads

June 8th – 9th, 2024

- **The Narrow and Wide Gates. Matthew 7:13-14**
 - This is a counter-cultural, and unpalatable, truth of God. Most find destruction not life??
 - I believe the Bible is the Holy, Inspired Word of God...and I'm doing everything in my power to make these verses false. I don't like this, but it's not up to me.
 - This isn't up to me, but how I respond to this unpalatable truth is up to me!
 - If you really believe this, then take responsibility to help. **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**
 - Paul got it after his Road to Damascus experience.
 - What does responsibility look like for most people?
 - 4 simple things: Pray, Get Involved, Serve, Give. It can be just that simple.
 - The antithesis of this is Consumer Christianity. Just trying to find what you want.
 - This happens when people get lulled to sleep. No one is actually that selfish.
 - I don't think God likes Matt 7:13-14 either. Actually, I know he doesn't.
 - If this wasn't true, would Jesus have died on the cross?? No, not in a million years, NO!!!
 - But, Jesus did go to the cross. He did his part to make redemption possible.
 - Why is this, Hell/Destruction, necessary?? Two thoughts:
 - 1) How do you get an Eternal Kingdom full of intelligent, creative free willed beings??
 - They mess it up. You have to Redeem those who are willing to grow into this.
 - 2) God doesn't force anyone. Boyfriend/girlfriend example. Forcing is evil.
 - If you refuse God what's left? No love, light, peace. What's left? Bad things man.
 - Are you willing to take responsibility to help?? Then let's be partners.
- **True and False Prophets. Matthew 7:15-20**
 - Now, make sure you trust the church/group you get involved with!!
 - Fruit is emphasized here, not gifts. (quick explanation of the difference) **1 Cor 13:1-3**
 - Don't be judgmental, but have discernment. **Matthew 7:6, Matthew 10:16.**
 - There is no perfect church, but there are toxic churches.
 - Look for good fruit. **Galatians 5:22-25.** Watch out for bad fruit. **Gal 5:19-21**
 - I think there are usually two trees growing. Make sure the good one is winning!!
 - Bottom Line: watch and recognize. Be sure to support healthy ministry.
- **True and False Disciples. Matthew 7:21-23**
 - Wow. So, now let's evaluate ourselves. We need to get this one right.
 - Would **Matthew 7:21** pass most theological evaluations?? Probably not. Still true.
 - Really, this is the same idea as the house built on the rock. DO IT!!
 - Do what? Prophecy, drive out demons, and perform miracles?? Well...**Matt 7:22-23.**
 - Back to fruit vs gifts. They were "evildoers." I assume that means bad fruit.
 - Ever see Christians with things on the **Galatians 5:19-21** list?
 - So, let's not be judgmental towards ourselves. But, let us be discerning and wise.
- I've got a little theory about **Matthew 7:13-14.**
 - I think it is possible that it isn't only talking about the afterlife, but this life too.
 - Kind of like **John 10:10.** Jesus came to give us life and life to the full!
 - What if your heart and life were full of the fruit of the Spirit instead of the other?? **Gal 5:22-23**
 - Jesus isn't into religious threats. He is here to lead us into a better way. He wants that so bad for you and me that he went to the cross to bring us to the narrow road.
 - Let's pray and do our part to solve two major problems:
 - 1) Let's get some people off the wide road onto the narrow road the leads to life.
 - 2) Let's get some Christians active in their faith, taking responsibility to do their part.
- For prayer email prayer@goodhope.ag Have a blessed day!