

The Sermon on the Mount – Lesson 12
Matthew 7:13-23
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the important messages that Christ brings out concerning the path of the righteous, the fruits of false teachers, and the destination of the lawless.

Intro: 1.
2.

I. Only two pathways (**v.13-14**)

A. Their description

1. Narrow path – is restrictive and difficult
 - a. The narrow path has no room for the traditions or ideas of men. Only the commands of God can be followed in this path (**Jer 6:16**)
2. Wide & broad path – convenient and no discipline is found on this path of life.
 - a. We are commanded to enter the narrow path but the wide & broad path requires no command to enter it.

B. Their travelers

1. The travelers on the narrow path is opposite of that of those found on the wide & broad path.
2. The difference between the two paths and its travelers is made more clear by the number of persons traveling on these pathways.
 - a. The narrow path has few travelers while the wide & broad path has many.
 - b. The destruction that awaits those on the wide & broad path is not of of extinction, but is the eternal torment that waits for the person on this path to continually experience – **forever**.
 - c. **John 14:6** – which path must a follower of Christ be on?

II. By their fruits

A. False teachers can be cleverly concealed (**v.15**)

1. False teachers do not wear signs or shout from the rooftops their erroneous ideas. (**2 Pt 2:18-19**)
2. As Christ points out, the only way to know who stands for truth, is to examine the fruit they produce (**v.16-18**)
 - a. It is not possible for a fruit tree to bring forth anything other than it's kind (apple tree – apples, plum tree – plums,etc). The same goes for these individuals.

B. A Separation & punishment

1. The separation & punishment from God is not optional and is the same for all those who are not producers of good fruit (teachers of truth – **v.19**)
 - a. **“every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down...”**
2. Thus,those who are not teachers of truth cannot hide their false teaching – because of the fruit those teachings produce (**v.20**).

III. Dismissal of the unknown

A. "Not everyone..." (v.21a)

1. Christ makes it clear "not everyone" is going into Heaven.
 - a. One reason this is true is because of what we just discussed in v.15-20; false teachers. False teachers cause believers to follow damnable doctrine and this results in more missing having Heaven as their eternal home.
2. Clearly not everyone is going to have Heaven as their home. This idea is foolish and many times is simply held because of the loss of loved ones.
3. So who does get to have Heaven as their eternal home (v.21b)?
 - a. Christ makes it clear, "*he who does the will of my father in heaven.*"

B. "Many will say to me in that day..." (v.22)

1. Many will call on the deeds they have done and claim these were done in the name of Christ.
 - a. Sadly, many horrible things have been done in the "name of the Lord".
 - Concerts
 - Fund raising events
 - The list goes on and on
2. Doing things in the name of Christ is not enough, clearly those who were doing these things in Christ's example, were not doing what Christ commanded in v.21b; "*the will of my father in heaven.*" (Jn 8:47; 14:15)

C. The reality (v.23)

1. Christ removes them from His presence – for eternity.
2. Christ says these people "practice lawlessness" therefore they are not able to make Heaven their eternal home.

Application & Conclusion:

1. What about you? Do you know which path you are on? Do you follow those who bring good fruit because of the teaching of truth? Are you doing the Father's will?
2. Full Invitation