

Life Group Lesson

November 14, 2010

Matthew 7:13-23

The Narrow and Wide Gates

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.

True and False Prophets

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. 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.

True and False Disciples

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!’

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the “narrow gate” we enter through? Describe it.
2. Describe the “broad gate” that leads to destruction?
3. Why do so many enter the broad gate and so few find the narrow gate?
4. How wide is the gate you currently are passing through?
5. Is what you are engaged in right now leading to life or destruction (v. 14).
6. Why, according to verse 15, should we watch out for false prophets?
7. How important is it that we get our teaching from the Bible from reliable, fruit-bearing, Spirit-filled teachers?
8. How do we recognize false prophets?
9. How do we recognize good prophets?
10. What kind of fruit is the current pattern of your life producing?
11. What kind of fruit do you desire to produce? Be as specific as possible.
12. How do you think others see you when they evaluate the fruit in your life?
13. What do you think verse 19 means by “cut down and thrown into the fire”?
14. How is it possible to say “Lord, Lord” and still not enter the kingdom of heaven?
15. A lot of good things are done in the name of the Lord. But, do you know the Lord?
16. Verse 21 says those who do the will of the Father enter the kingdom of heaven. What is the will of the Father that leads to going to heaven?
17. Can someone truly do works for the Lord and not truly know Him?
18. What good deeds or religious activity are you presently doing that bearing no or little fruit? Are these things connecting you to the Father and building intimacy with Him or are they just religious activities?