

Counter Culture

"Two Ways and Two Foundations" - Matthew 7:13-27

Matthew 7:13-27 - "You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. 14 But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it. 15 Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. 16 You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thorn-bushes, or figs from thistles? 17 A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. 18 A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. 19 So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. 20 Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions. 21 "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22 On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' 23 But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.' 24 Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. 25 Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. 26 But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. 27 When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."

I. The Two Ways (vs. 13-14) defined by . . .

A. The Two Roads

1. The Wide Road
2. The Difficult Road

Jesus said it this way in John 14:6 - "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.'"

There is only one way, and Jesus said it is a narrow way. That way is through faith in Jesus. We don't get to make up our own way. There is no tolerance. There are not diverse ways. The one way is a way of grace and mercy, but only by faith in the work of Jesus on the cross for you. Only by surrendering your life in faith to the control - lordship of Jesus can you enter.

B. The Two Gates

1. A wide gate to the easy road.

2. The narrow gate to the hard road.

Jesus said in John 10:7-9 - "I am the door."

C. Two destinations.

1. Destruction is the destination of the wide and easy road.
2. Life is the destination of the pilgrims on the narrow way. It might not feel comfortable on the journey. You have to keep your focus on the destination.

- Hebrews 11:13-16 - "All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them."

- Titus 2:11-13 - "For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed."

D. Two crowds.

1. On the broad and easy road, it is a busy street.
2. On the narrow road, there are few.

II. The Two Foundations. (Vs. 21-27)

You know that feeling when you see someone you know and you can't remember their name? It is embarrassing. It is also embarrassing when you see somebody you feel well acquainted with, and they don't recognize or remember you. To be among friends with whom you have used this person's name frequently only to have them act as if they don't know you at all. It makes you feel awfully small. Imagine Jesus looking at you and saying, "I never knew you." "Who are you?" "You don't belong to Me. Leave!"

From this warning, Jesus says "therefore" (vs. 24-27). The illustration concerns the foundations upon which two houses are built.

Only a storm will often reveal the fatal flaw of the foolish spiritual house builder. Whether it is a storm of an earthly crisis or the storm of the final judgement, the truth will be revealed.