

Two (Matthew 7:13-29)

Introduction: Binary systems in history
Themes within the Sermon on the Mount (Chapter 7 is judgment)

I. Two Roads (7:13-14)

The herd mentality – following the crowd
Though none go with me, still I will follow

Your judgment is being tested: What is the basis of your choice?
What you can perceive (an easy way and a hard way)
Your unseen destination (heaven or hell)
The exclusive claims of Christ are hated by a tolerant world

A call to believe: The final judgment of unbelievers
Enter the narrow gate!
Jesus IS the gate; Jesus IS the way

II. Two Trees (7:15-23)

False teachers recognized by their fruits
Fruit of their teaching (doctrine)
Fruit of their character (life)
Fruit of those who follow them (false converts)

The final judgment of false teachers

True discipleship: The necessity of submission to Christ (“Lordship Salvation”)

A call to repent: The final judgment of false converts

III. Two Houses (7:24-27)

A house built on the rock - stands

A house built on sand – *great shall be the fall of it*

The final judgment on “forgetful hearers of the Word”

IV. Authority and Judgment (7:28-29)

Assurance and Warning in the Scripture
We need to embrace both without surrendering the truth of either

Jesus has authority because He is the Judge

The Scots Confession (1560) Chapter 13

The Cause of Good Works

So that the cause of good works we confess to be, not our free will, but the Spirit of the Lord Jesus who, dwelling in our hearts by true faith, brings forth such good works as God has prepared for us to walk into. For this we most boldly affirm, that blasphemy it is to say that Christ Jesus abides in the hearts of such as in whom there is no spirit of sanctification.[1] And therefore we fear not to affirm that murderers, oppressors, cruel persecutors, adulterers, whoremongers, filthy persons, idolaters, drunkards, thieves, and all workers of iniquity, have neither true faith, neither any portion of the spirit of sanctification, which proceeds from the Lord Jesus, so long as obstinately they continue in their wickedness.

For how soon that ever the Spirit of the Lord Jesus (which God's elect children receive by true faith) takes possession in the heart of any man, so soon does he regenerate and renew the same man; so that he begins to hate that which before he loved, and begins to love that which before he hated. And from thence comes that continual battle which is betwixt the flesh and the spirit in God's children; while the flesh and natural man (according to their own corruption) lust for things pleasing and delectable unto the self, grudge in adversity, are lifted up in prosperity, and at every moment are prone and ready to offend the Majesty of God.[2] But the Spirit of God, which gives witnessing to our spirit, that we are the sons of God,[3] makes us to resist filthy pleasures, and to groan in God's presence for deliverance from this bondage of corruption;[4] and finally, to triumph over sin that it reign not in our mortal bodies.[5] This battle have not the carnal men, being destitute of God's Spirit; but [they] do follow and obey sin with greediness, and without repentance, even as the devil and their corrupt lusts do prick them. But the sons of God (as before is said) do fight against sin, do sob and mourn, when they perceive themselves tempted to iniquity; and if they fall, they rise again with earnest and unfeigned repentance.[6] And these things they do not by their own power, but the power of the Lord Jesus, without whom they were able to do nothing. [7]

1] Eph. 2:10; Phil 2:13; John 15:5; Rom. 8:9; 2] Rom. 7:15-25; Gal. 5:17; 3] Rom. 8:16; 4] Rom. 7:24; 8:22; 5] Rom. 6:12; 6] 2 Tim. 2:26; 7] John 15:5.