
Review: Matthew 7:13-14: Read

The Lord Jesus set before us the strait gate and the narrow way, which lead to eternal life and the wide gate and broad way that lead to eternal destruction.

MANY are on the BROAD WAY, which leads to destruction while FEW are in the NARROW way, which leads to life. The Lord followed his urgent call to sinners with this dire warning:

Few there be that find the strait gate and the narrow way, which leads to eternal life. Luke 13:23-24

There are MANY in the world, who think to follow Christ, BUT in their own way, (usually in such ways in which they may continue in their sins); these MANY think to follow Christ on "A PATH" of their own choosing, and NOT by faith in Christ, and NOT in obedience to the gospel. THESE are those that do not find Christ! *Proverbs 12:15, 14:12, 28:26*

If you're lost, this morning, (you're not born-again), you've NOT turned from your sins to Christ, there is ONE GATE, ONE NARROW PATH, and ONE GOSPEL MESSAGE that will lead you to Christ and the salvation of your soul! There IS NOT OTHER Saviour of sinners!

If you would be saved from your sins, from the captivity of Satan, from this present world, from the wrath of God, and from eternal damnation, you MUST ENTER in at the strait gate, which is Christ! *John 10:7-13*

This warning about "the wolf coming and scattering the sheep" brings us to our text this morning in Matthew 7:15-20: Read

Satan's wolves will come to the church disguised as sheep; their mission is to introduce false teachings into the church and scatter the sheep from Christ.

There is no doubt that the Lord Jesus had His finger squarely pointed at the scribes and Pharisees. *Matthew 23:13-15, 33.* Throughout the Sermon on the Mount, The Lord exposed the hypocrisy wickedness of the scribes and Pharisees. This is what they have said, this is what they have taught you, BUT I say unto you.

6-Times, (see verse 5), the Lord Jesus countered their doctrine, practice, and example to the people and then He rightly represented obedience to God & righteousness (by His own life and practice).

And now, (Verse15), Jesus WARNED them that they MUST:

"BEWARE of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly; they are ravening (angry/ferocious) wolves".

THEY WILL COME to you "in sheep's clothing"; THEY WILL present themselves to the church as sheep, just like you.

This is why the Pastor's calling is so important! Part of being an Under-Shepherd is that he must have a "spiritually discerning" eye and "spiritually discerning ears" as He keeps watch on the flock of God.

Not only is he to constantly be leading sinners and saints to the strait gate, which is Christ, and to green pastures where saints may feed upon the Word of God, BUT he must ALSO WATCH for "wolves" disguised as sheep THAT WILL ENTER IN among the sheep with one design, to scatter them from Christ and then ruin them in the world. Acts 20:28-32

Remember the Words of the Lord Jesus, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"!

But as we've often said, that doesn't mean the forces of hell won't stop attacking! And how will Satan attack the church of Christ? By sending wolves and false prophets deceive and to infect the flock with false doctrines.

False prophets/false teachers have long attacked the church, they are Satan's emissaries sent to deceive, blind, and entrap souls. Satan doesn't want you out of church, he just wants to keep you LOST in the church!

He wants to keep you blind to the gospel of Christ; that's why he will continue to send his wolves! Oh, they will speak of Christ, but they will distort the scriptures and gospel of Christ to their own destruction and yours! Jeremiah 5:30-31, 14:14, 23:25-26, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, 2 Peter 2:1-3.

False teachers will bring damnable heresies into the church....this is why I am always "looking and listening" in our gathering:

A wolf doesn't have to stand behind a pulpit, they just need the ears of the sheep, and remember the Words of the Lord, wolves will come disguised as sheep! They look like sheep and talk like sheep but they are wolves and NOT sheep!

This is why we don't allow people to immediately join the church; it's so important for us to (first) get to know you; and for you to know us:

Are you born-again? How were you saved? What gospel do you believe? What do you believe from the Holy Scriptures about how you were saved?

When Satan sends wolves, they will come in subtlety, which is his consistent method. That's why the Pastor must weigh very

carefully, and by much prayer and discernment who may be allowed to stand here to teach and preach the Word to the flock. Isaiah 8:20

Listen, the last thing that any pastor/preacher wants to do is "mislead" the people of God, and to lead them into a way that is not IAW the revealed will of God! But Pastors are NOT infallible!

I will make mistakes, no pastor is without errors in understanding the truths of God's Word; pastors are imperfect men with a perfect message!

BUT....it is the FULL INTENTION of false prophets and false teachers to deceive and lie to the people of God! This is why it is very important for you CHRISTIAN to KNOW what you believe from the Holy Scriptures beginning with the way of salvation! 2 Timothy 2:15-18

Here's one of their key ingredients: False prophets will make the narrow way (the way of salvation) wider and more accommodating; they will lead sinners in a way that is NOT so narrow and restrictive. Acts 4:12

There is salvation in NONE other Name but Christ; and there is none other Name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.

Jesus THEN transitions from disguised wolves and sheep to trees and fruit.

(V16-20): "YE shall KNOW (or recognize or be able to detect) them by their fruits":

Their FRUIT, I believe to be their hypocrisy. The willful hypocrite cannot long conceal his/her hypocrisy. Some of the MOST CONSPICUOUS MARKS of a hypocrite are, they love to be exalted and complimented, they pretend to be Christians when they're around Christians, but when they're alone, they love their sins and they love the world, because they are OF the world; and they love to take glory which belongs only to God to themselves.

As John Calvin so aptly stated: Fruits plainly discover upright servants of God and unfaithful workmen, as the fruits point out the nature of the tree. Luke 6:43-45

No one looks for grapes or figs in a briar patch of thorns. There are good trees that bear good fruit and there are bad or corrupt trees that bear poisonous fruit. A good tree CANNOT bring forth corrupt fruit, and a corrupt tree CANNOT bring forth good fruit. Matthew 12:33

If you would not be scattered, deceived, and drawn away from Christ by false teachers, you need to KNOW what YOU believe from the Holy Scriptures:

NOT, this is what I have been taught, but this is what I believe by faith about Christ and His Holy Word! You need to be able discern between what is truth and what is error you hear from the pulpit!

If you believe everything that you hear, there is a strong probability that you do not know what you believe!

You need to be a Berean; you need to study what you heard in Church today! If you would know a false teacher from a true teacher of God, you must know the truth for yourself.

Acts 16:10-11, 2 Timothy 2:15, 3:13-17, Hebrews 5:12-14

To the lost, the world is full of lies about life and death and eternity, and especially about the Lord Jesus Christ! The god of this world has filled the world with lying voices; Satan is an adversary who will NOT REST until he takes you through the WIDE GATE that leads to destruction!

I am here to turn you away from his lies and to Christ and to the truth of the gospel. Satan wants the high ground in your life; don't give it to him!