

Brookland Baptist Church
Bible Study
Pastor Charles B. Jackson, Sr., Facilitator

Lecture XV

May 26, 2021

THE GREATEST SERMON EVER PREACHED

Matthew 7:13-14 (KJV)

¹³ Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at:

¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

The gateway to eternal life is called “strait,” an old word for “narrow.” This does not mean it is difficult to become a Christian, but that there is only **ONE** way to live eternally with God and that only a few decide to walk that road.

John 10:7-10 (KJV)

⁷ Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

⁸ All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

⁹ I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

¹⁰ The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

John 14:6 (KJV)

⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Persons to enter the narrow gate three things must happen:

1. Accept the teaching of God’s Word as truth.
2. True repentance of our sins.
3. Complete surrender of ourselves to God in Christ. (All to Jesus I surrender.)

Matthew 7:15-20 (JKV)

¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

¹⁶ Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

¹⁷ Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

¹⁸ A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

¹⁹ Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

²⁰ Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Matthew 7:15-20 (MSG)

¹⁵⁻²⁰ “Be wary of false preachers who smile a lot, dripping with practiced sincerity. Chances are they are out to rip you off some way or other. Don’t be impressed with charisma; look for character. Who preachers are is the main thing, not what they say. A genuine leader will never exploit your emotions or your pocketbook. These diseased trees with their bad apples are going to be chopped down and burned.

False prophets are common in the Old Testament. They prophesied only what the King and the people wanted to hear, claiming it was God’s message. False teachers are commonplace. Jesus says beware of those whose words sound religious, but are motivated by money, fame, or power. You can tell who they are because in their teaching they minimize Christ and glorify themselves.

Just as trees are consistent in the kind of fruit they produce; good preachers and teachers consistently exhibit good behavior and try to live out the truths of Scripture. They are not perfect, but they try to live with a pure heart. We should try and examine the motives and results they are seeking. Do they serve and lead to honor themselves or to honor God?

I John 4:1-3 (KJV)

⁴ Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

² Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

³ And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Questions to Ask About Preachers

1. Are the words they say consistent with what God says in the Bible?
2. Are they committed to building up the Body of Christ?
3. Are they self-serving or a servant of God for those to whom they preach?
4. Are they bearing fruit of good will in ministry?
5. Are they preaching that Jesus is the Christ who saves from sin?