

BE CHOOSY **Matthew 7:13-23**

We need to be choosy as we heed Christ's words about paths, prophets and professions

I. BE CHOOSY ABOUT PATHS (13-14)

- Where are you going?

A. The CHARGE > "Enter by the narrow gate"

1. It is Personal: You are going to have to decide how to get to eternal life
2. It is Passionate: Jesus pleads "Enter here"

B. The CHOICES > There are only two!

1. The Broad Gate > Desirable
 - a. It's Ease: An abundance of liberty and company here
 - b. It's End: Destruction
2. The Narrow Gate
 - a. It's Effort: Narrow, difficult, lonely and restrictive
 - b. It's End: Eternal Life (see II Corinthians 4:16-18)

II. BE CHOOSY ABOUT PROPHETS (15-20)

- Who are you listening to?

A. BEWARE: There are false prophets > II John 7-11, Jude 4

B. BE AWARE > Here is how you can spot them

1. They are Dedicated: They come to you
2. They are Deceptive
 - a. They look like sheep and appear to be a part of God's flock
 - b. In reality they are ravenous wolves who will be ...
 - 1) Hostile to God's people - Acts 20:29-31
 - 2) Attacking the good prophets - III John 9-10
3. They are Discernable (16-20) > False prophets will ...
 - 1) Deny Christ - II Peter 2:1-3
 - 2) Destroy God's Word > Adding or subtracting - See Deut. 4:1-2 and Rev. 22:18-19
 - 3) Defile themselves - Titus 1:10-16
4. They are Doomed (19)

Over please >

III. **BE CHOOSY ABOUT PROFESSIONS** (21-23)

- *Who impresses you?*

A. The EXCLUDED ONES

1. Their Acclaim (21)

- a. They recognize Christ's dignity but refuse His deity
- b. Not all who call Him "Lord" will enter the Kingdom

2. Their Activity (22)

- a. They delivered His word > "Did we not prophesy in Your name?"
- b. They demonstrated His power > Casting out demons in Your name
- c. They delighted in His works > Doing many miracles in Your name

3. Their Answer (23)

- Then Christ declares to them ...

- a. They are unknown > "I never knew you"
- b. They are unworthy > "Depart from me"
- c. They are unholy > "You who practice lawlessness"

B. The EXCELENT ONES (21)

1. "He who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter"
2. It is not so important what one professes but it is of utmost importance what one practices.
3. The criteria for true followers is what they do with God's will
4. Those doing God's will enter His Kingdom

CONCLUSION:

Jesus calls us to be discerning

- In John 14:6 he says:

1. I am the way > the right path
2. I am the truth > the right prophet
3. I am the life > the right profession

- No man comes to the Father except through me

We must choose to follow Jesus

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