



Throughout this series, we've learned or been reminded many times that a disciple is not just a hearer. A disciple is not even just a student. A disciple is a follower. Disciples of Jesus follow in his footsteps and Jesus has not shied away from teaching all who will listen about the way of his disciples.

"Enter by the \_\_\_\_\_ gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to \_\_\_\_\_, and those who find it are few." (7:13-14)

What is Jesus calling us to enter? Remember what Matthew told us about just before this sermon.

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven is at hand." (4:17)

Remember even the very first sentence of Jesus' most famous sermon.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_." (5:3)

Along the way, Jesus makes clear that we can't trust every voice we hear. Not everyone has passed through that narrow gate. Not everyone is on the way that leads to life.

"Beware of \_\_\_\_\_ prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every \_\_\_\_\_ tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear \_\_\_\_\_ fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their \_\_\_\_\_." (7:15-20)

Disciples of Jesus must be on guard along the way and here's why, according to the King himself.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who \_\_\_\_\_ the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never \_\_\_\_\_ you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'" (7:21-23)

There is a way to enter and live as part of the kingdom of heaven. Let's explore it together.



# For Class & Family Discussion:

1. Why do you think Jesus would call his disciples to enter by “the narrow gate.” If a gate is narrow... What can we learn from that description?
2. In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus talks in a way that many would find very offensive. So why would he say what he said? And how should that shape the way we think about the kingdom of heaven and talk about it to others?
3. In your own words, what is a “false prophet” (7:15)? Is there a difference between the sort of person Jesus is describing and someone who simply has more to learn? Maybe revisiting the example of someone like Apollos (Acts 18:24-28) would be helpful here...
4. “Thus you will recognize them by their fruits” (Matt 7:20). So what sort of “fruit” does Jesus want his disciples to be wary of?
5. In Matthew 7:22, Jesus refers to what sounds like a very important “day.” What do you think he’s talking about? Can you find any other passages, even in Matthew’s Gospel, that might help us understand what Jesus is describing?
6. As you scan Matthew 7:21-23, what do we need to see and understand?
7. As Jesus has challenged us to think carefully about “the few” and “the false,” what do we need to carry with us away from this lesson?