

Small Group Discussion Guide

Choices — Matthew 7:13–23

Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church | April 19, 2026

Discussion Questions

1. The Road Less Traveled

The sermon contrasted Robert Frost’s romantic view of “the road less traveled,” Jerry Seinfeld’s cynical view, and Jesus’ sobering one. Jesus says the narrow road is hard. It’s interesting that Jesus’ narrow road is hard, but the world can be hard in its own right. What is the difference between these “hard roads?” What difficult choices have you been faced with as you have walked along the road?

2. Two Roads/Two Gates

In what way is the gate and the worldly road wide? What is your understanding and experience of this; what do you think Jesus is talking about? Alternatively, in what way do you think the gate is narrow, constricting, and costly when we choose to follow Jesus? To use Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s words, what is “the cost of discipleship?”

3. Jesus as the Gate

In John 10:9, Jesus says, “I am the gate.” The Sermon on the Mount is not simply a list of strict rules, instead entering through Jesus leads to abundant life. Does framing discipleship as a relationship with a person (rather than rule-keeping) change the way think about Jesus’ call to a narrow path that few find?

4. Recognizing Wolves in Sheep’s Clothing

Jesus warns that false prophets are difficult to spot because they dress the part. The sermon pointed to Galatians 5 fruit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) as one of the indicators. What are some ways that you can discern if someone is a true or false teacher who gets to speak for God or not?

5. “I Never Knew You” — The Frightening Warning of Verse 23

Do you find the words of verse 21–23 to be frightening? Why or why not?

Jesus says many will point to impressive spiritual accomplishments yet hear the words “I never knew you.” What does it mean practically to “know” Jesus, as opposed to simply performing religious activity in his name or being extremely gifted? What does an authentic, ongoing relationship with Jesus look like in everyday life?

How is it possible for someone with the right doctrine, apparent enthusiasm (Lord, Lord!), who is doing the ‘right’ things to still not be saved?

6. Fruit in the Garden of Ordinary Life

Reflecting on the Sermon on the Mount as we near the end of this study, what are some practical ways where you sense Jesus inviting you to nurture your spiritual life that you might bear more fruit?