

 **WARNING**



FATAL!

FATAL IF INSTRUCTIONS NOT FOLLOWED

MATTHEW 7.13-27

LIVING IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

MY TEACHING IS IMPERATIVE!

Repent! The kingdom of heaven is near.

MATTHEW 4.17

- ▶ Jesus' sermon begins with extraordinary embrace and blessing: Kingdom welcome and affirmation. Jesus concludes with a quartet of warnings. This is more than appealing and worthwhile moral teaching; these are "do-or-die" imperatives which carry the weight of eternal consequences. They are the proof of whether one has truly turned around and embraced the call to follow Jesus and become an authentic citizen of the kingdom of heaven.

- ▶ The Beatitudes - what it means to have the heart of Christ
- ▶ The Paradigms - what we must be to have credibility in the kingdom
- ▶ The Standards - the tests of possessing true kingdom quality
- ▶ The Devotions - the relational life that defines us as true children of the Father in heaven
- ▶ The Priorities - the exclusive, non-negotiable "either/or" priorities
- ▶ The Humilities - the qualities of the spirit of Christ we must possess
- ▶ The Warnings - the fatal outcome for those who dismiss or undervalue the seriousness of this sermon

THE TWO GATES

Small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

MATTHEW 7.14

stenos: used only by Jesus in the NT; from “obstacles standing close about”

- ▶ The way to the kingdom is not that of the moral and cultural majority. The true disciple of Christ chooses the righteousness of the kingdom of heaven; resists the inclination to look at others, and chooses the life of surrender and self-loss to gain the eternal.

THE TWO TREES

For the overflow of what has been stored up in your heart will be seen by your fruit and will be heard by your words.

LUKE 6.45 TPT

- ▶ Jesus requires us to be discriminating and self-examining: discriminating in our evaluation of what (and those) we hear and respond to, and self-examining of the fruit in our own lives. A good tree and good fruit is the result of taking to heart these words of Jesus and embracing his life as the exclusive life for us.

THE TWO DO-ERS

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of God, but only he who does the will of my Father in heaven.”

MATTHEW 5.21

- ▶ The criteria that Jesus presents becomes more and more defining: now he addresses those who are part of us, people who claim Jesus as Lord and do works in his name. *“It is strangely possible to serve and even glorify Christ and yet in actual life not to obey him.”* The true measure of our lives as Christians is not what we do but what we are as practitioners of the Father’s will.

THE TWO BUILDERS

But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

MATTHEW 7.26

- ▶ What words? These words, this sermon. Jesus preaches with eternity in view and a warning not to be negligent or careless.

Each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Christ Jesus. . . . His work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each one's work.

1 CORINTHIANS 3.10-13