

AFTER HEARING THE WORDS OF JESUS

Text: Mat.7:13-27

Jesus, having finished His teachings on the mount, gives four contrasting ways one may respond to what has been heard. [**what was heard?**]

Beatitudes; Salt of earth; Let light shine that others may see your good works.

Righteousness must surpass that of Pharisees and scribes:

But I say . . . (thought and motive, not just overt action condemned)

Hatred, Reconciliation, Adultery, Divorce, Oaths, Retaliation, Love, Almsgiving; Prayer, Treasures, Anxiety, Judging, “Golden Rule.”

Response choices: narrow or broad way; Jesus or false prophets; good or evil fruit; do or not do.

ENTER BY THE NARROW GATE 7:13-14

Road to destruction is wide and well traveled. The way to life is narrow and little used.

Religion of ease and popularity (wide gate) is appealing for the present.

It is said: “Love everybody–ignore the rest”

Admonition: Choose the way according to its destination, not according to ease.

BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS (TEACHERS) 7:15-20

Many who claim to speak in God’s name are false prophets.

Identified by ‘fruit.’ False teachers offer bad fruit: “trust and follow their teachings.”

Tickle ears of those who want them tickled. 2Ti.4:3-4; 1Ti.6:3-5

They pervert or ignore teachings on adultery, divorce, treasures, morality.

Religion based on the teachings of men: accepts false rather than true.

“Lawlessness” teach/and do what is not of Christ. 1Pe.4:11; without “law of Christ.” Gal.6:2

The teachings of men will be rejected; and those who listen to them will be disappointed.

HIS WILL AND HIS WAY, NOT MINE 7:21-23

To profess to know and serve God is not the same as *known by God*. 1Co.8:3 with Joh.14:15, 23-24

Those known by God are those who do His will His way, not their will their way.

“One way” excludes all other ways. Eph.4:4-6

One promotes hi/her own righteousness, not God’s. Rom 10:1ff

Warning: Serving God in my own way is a fruitless endeavor.

FOUNDATION FIRM OR FLIMSY 7:24-27

Putting Christ’s words into practice verses failing to apply it. (cf. Jam.1:22) Heb.13:20-21

The storms of life will demonstrate which direction one has chosen.

Not just “hear” but be transformed. Rom.12:2

One avoids applications of “salt of earth, hatred, recociliation.”

Warning: Religion that doesn’t affect one’s actions is only an empty show of piety.

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Chose your life path based on the basis of destination – not the conditions of the path.

Don’t be one who believes that faith based on what some man said is will save you.

Don’t be one who knows what to do, but doesn’t do it.

Sorrowful words: “Depart from me” What a dreadful separation– from the very Jesus one claimed to know.

It is necessary that we believe in Christ – that we repent of sin – and be cleansed of the guilt by the blood of Christ – that we live a holy life, willingly and lovingly.

WHICH PATH IS YOUR CHOICE?