

Text: Matthew 7:13-23

Meaning: Jesus shared some sobering truths about the Kingdom

Big Idea: How do you experience heaven on earth?

Objective: I want the hearers to experience heaven on earth

Theme: Warnings

GATES

Cities in Jesus's day were walled and fortified with a set of gates that served as the main entrance or entrances into the city. City gates were places of central activity. It was at the city gates that important business transactions were made, court was convened and justice handed down, and public announcements were heralded. As a result, in biblical language to control the gates of one's enemy was to conquer their city entirely.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/city-gate.html>

In the Scriptures, gates were not only found in cities, but also in camps, houses, temples, and palaces.

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/20141001184612-50506295-understanding-the-importance-of-gates>

Ft. Campbell Gates illustration

valid non-expired license

military ID, military orders, be accompanying someone with an ID or orders

have special privileges (i.e. being sponsored on base for an event). vehicle registration and proof of insurance for the car you will be driving.

TAKE THE GOSPEL ROAD

Outside the gate are major four lane highways you can ride up and down and have all kinds of fun. That's life. That's the traffic of culture with all kinds of entertaining things. That's what he's saying.

Don't just run up and down the road of life with all the traffic on this world.

WIDE AND BROAD – Carries the idea of begin spacious and pleasurable. So the road that leads to destruction is the road of pleasure and comfort. It's living only for the things which appeal to our sinful flesh, the same very things the world chases after. He's already talked about many of these: MONEY, POSSESSIONS, FOOD, CLOTHING, SEXUAL PLEASURE.

1 John 2:16

For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world.

DESTRUCTION – these things will become the source of YOUR OWN RUIN if you live for them.

Gospel Gate – Narrow and the Road is difficult that leads to true life.

ROAD – Hodos in Greek, same word translated WAY

John 14:6 – Jesus said, "I am THE WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE"

Narrow is the gate and difficult the road – Jesus is the way to life

NARROW ROAD – FOLLOW JESUS! He is the ONLY WAY TO TRUE LIFE – THE ONLY WAY TO EXPERIENCE THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

It is the TRUTH that is the narrowing part of this road – when you stand on God's truth and begin to live it out – you will be accused of being NARROW MINDED, BIGOTED, OUT OF TOUCH, AND LAME.

Paul said – JESUS USES THE FOOLISH THINGS OF THE WORLD TO SHAME THE WISE.

DIFFICULT – following Jesus is not easy. It's not easy standing for Christ in your workplace. It's not easy standing for Christ at school.

LOOKOUT FOR IMPOSTORS

It's no coincidence that Jesus goes from gates to false prophets, because they were impostors or antagonists that would constantly try and make their way through the gate into the city. Jesus says there are those who try to get into the Kingdom for their own selfish and underhanded reasons.

Be on your guard – imperative, command.

FALSE PROPHETS – WE THINK FALSE TEACHING.

Teaching – The Bible is the Word of God. The gospel is the way of God. Jesus is the Son of God. Mankind is sinful and broken and needs to be rescued. Jesus is our only hope of salvation. Gender and sexuality are not a matter of opinion or interpretation. **ONE WAY TO GOD – THROUGH JESUS!**

Jesus doesn't point out their TEACHING. He points out THEIR LIVING. HE TALKS ABOUT FRUIT. YOU WILL KNOW THEM BY THEIR FRUIT.

FRUIT – speaks of their character of life. The way they interact with and treat other people. Do they live ethical lives? Do they make godly moral decisions? Do they put the interests of others before themselves?

GALATIANS 5 – FRUIT OF SPIRIT

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

BAD TREES – BAD FRUIT, NO FRUIT
GOOD TREES – PRODUCE GOOD FRUIT

BAD – WORTHLESS, ROTTEN

GOOD – **Agathos in Greek**, carries idea of **GENEROSITY**

RAVAGING WOLVES

Ravaging – Viscious nasty people. Swindlers or Thieves. The context here is those who look specifically to GAIN FROM THE GOSPEL

Ezekiel 22:27-28

²⁷ “Her officials within her are like wolves tearing their prey, shedding blood, and destroying lives in order to make profit dishonestly. ²⁸ Her prophets plaster for them with whitewash by seeing false visions and lying divinations, saying, ‘This is what the Lord GOD says,’ when the LORD has not spoken.”

BEFORE THAT - Devour people – Seize wealth and valuables – do violence to my instruction – make no distinction between what is holy and what is common

The Pharisees ministered for **POWER AND WEALTH** – not for **PEOPLE AND WORSHIP**

GET TO KNOW JESUS

Jesus is the only one with Heaven's ID to get you into the Kingdom.

In the Ft. Campbell Gate illustration this is like pulling up to the gate and them asking for your ID and you saying....

Well, I know how to shoot a gun.
I have a friend who is in the military
I like to wear camo

KNOW – Ginosko in the Greek

often describes the kind of knowledge involved in building an intimate relationship. It is deep person to person relational knowledge, not just factual knowledge. In fact, the word is used to describe sexual relations in the Scripture, and Jesus used it to describe the one of a kind relationship He and God the Father have. This is the kind of transformational knowledge that goes beyond the words on the pages of Scripture to the very voice of God and comfort of the Holy Spirit in your life.

WILL OF MY FATHER

Jesus connects this very knowledge with understanding the will of God for your life. How do you know the will of God? KNOW JESUS. Know Jesus and you will know the will of God

Peyton Manning Illustration

We use the word know in multiple different ways. For example, I am a Tennessee football fan. If you ask me if I know Peyton Manning, I would say yes. The son of the great Archie Manning, play football at Tennessee from 1994-1997, had an incredible career there and then played 18 seasons in the NFL, 14 for the Colts and 4 for the Broncos. He won 5 MVP awards and 2 super bowl and is 3rd all time in passing yards and passing touchdowns. I know Payton Manning.

But if you ask me have I ever met Payton Manning, that's a different story. No, I have not. The knowledge John is referring to here with Jesus is personal first-hand knowledge. He is talking

not only about someone who has met Jesus, but someone who talks with Him and spends time with Him every day.

The Pharisees possessed an amount of Scriptural knowledge that is unmatched by just about any pastor or scholar today. They were expected to be able to quote entire chapters and even entire books of the Bible. Keep in mind that the Temple and the synagogues only had scrolls. There were no personal copies of God's Word – SO MEMORIZATION WAS VITAL IF THEY WERE TO TEACH THE SCRIPTURES.

The Pharisees would wow you with their ability to recall Scripture – YET THEY OPPOSED CHRIST.

YOU CAN BE A WALKING ROLODEX OF SCRIPTURE AND STILL NOT KNOW JESUS – HOW SCARY IS THAT?!

Question: WHAT HAS THE SPIRIT OF GOD SAID TO YOU LATELY?

Romans 8 – Those who are LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD ARE THE SONS OF GOD.

He didn't say – THOSE WHO KNOW THE WORD OF GOD ARE THE SONS OF GOD. He said THOSE WHO ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT ARE CHILDREN OF GOD.

THE GREATEST EVIDENCE OF YOUR SALVATION IS THE DIRECT WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOUR LIFE!

DO YOU KNOW JESUS?!

If so – ARE YOU GROWING IN THAT KNOWLEDGE?

