



## PART 11: "...IN CONCLUSION"

### Sermon Notes

**Text: Matthew 7:13-29**

#### Introduction:

v. 13 begins Jesus' conclusion to The Sermon on the Mount.

v. 28-29 - The crowd reacts to his authority

#### 1. The Narrow Way of the Kingdom

v. 13-14

"Yes, there are many ways that branch off from this; and they are crooked and wide: But here's how you can distinguish the right from the wrong, the Right only being strait and narrow" ~ Goodwill (paraphrase), *The Pilgrims Progress*.

"There are millions of ways to be a human being and many paths to what you call 'God'...there couldn't possibly be just one way" ~Oprah Winfrey

"The revelation of God is the abolition of religion" ~Karl Barth

John 10:9, 14:6

Jesus isn't offering us religion in the Sermon on the Mount; he's offering us himself.

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"This is no more exclusive than if you had fallen into a well and a rescue crew lowered down a rope as a way of escape. It would be silly to criticize their one way of escape as too exclusive or restrictive. But people often do this with God. We demand multiple options because we want the power to decide our own method of rescue, because we want to be in charge of everything. We want to play God. But a single solution does not imply exclusivity—not if that solution is offered to everyone without exception" ~Bruxy Cavey

#### 2. The Contrast of the Kingdom

Jesus contrasts: Two roads, two sheep, two trees, two houses, etc. On the surface they all look the same, but the end result is fundamentally different.

On the surface, there are two groups of people whose behaviour looks exactly the same, but their hearts are radically different.

#### 3. The Lord of the Kingdom

"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to" ~C.S. Lewis

v. 22

"The teaching of the Sermon on the Mount is not meant to be admired but to be obeyed" ~Richard France

v. 24-27

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Numbers 20, 1 Corinthians 10:4

**Conclusion:**

v. 24 “put them into practice...”

**Life Group Discussion**

**Warm up:**

1. What are 1 or 2 points from The Sermon on the Mount Series that have been the most impactful on you? How are you trying to apply them?

**Study & Discussion:**

1. Read Matthew 7:15-20 & Luke 6:43-45. What does Luke add to this topic? How do we evaluate “fruit” (see also 1 John 4:1-6)?
2. Read Matthew 7:24-27 & Luke 6:46-49. Compare and contrast these passages. What does it mean for Jesus to be “Lord” (see also Matthew 7:21, Luke 4:46 & Romans 10:9)? What do you think of C.S. Lewis’ quote (see notes under “The Lord of the Kingdom”).
3. Read John 10:1-18. How does this passage relate to Matthew 7:13-14? What does it add? How does the relationship between shepherd and sheep compare to our relationship with Jesus?

**Application:**

1. Jesus said that those who are wise will put his words into practice (v. 24-27). Thinking back on the whole series, what is one thing that you need to put into practice?

**Prayer:**

1. Pray for wisdom so that you can put Jesus’ words into practice.
2. Other requests
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