

# The Decision

Matthew 7:13-29

9/18/11

## Enter

**Matthew 7:13** "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it.

<sup>14</sup> "For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.

**Luke 13:22** And He was passing through from one city and village to another, teaching, and proceeding on His way to Jerusalem.

<sup>23</sup> And someone said to Him, "Lord, are there *just* a few who are being saved?" And He said to them,

<sup>24</sup> "Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

<sup>25</sup> "Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, 'Lord, open up to us!' then He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.'

<sup>26</sup> "Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets';

<sup>27</sup> and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; depart from Me, all you evildoers.'

<sup>28</sup> "There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth there when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being cast out.

<sup>29</sup> "And they will come from east and west, and from north and south, and will recline *at the table* in the kingdom of God.

<sup>30</sup> "And behold, *some* are last who will be first and *some* are first who will be last."

## Beware

**Matthew 7:15** "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

<sup>16</sup> "You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn *bushes*, nor figs from thistles, are they?

<sup>17</sup> "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

<sup>18</sup> "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.

<sup>19</sup> "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>20</sup> "So then, you will know them by their fruits.

**Romans 14:1** Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but* not for *the purpose of* passing judgment on his opinions.

<sup>2</sup> One man has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*.

<sup>3</sup> Let not him who eats regard with contempt him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him.

<sup>4</sup> Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

<sup>5</sup> One man regards one day above another, another regards every day *alike*. Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind.

**Galatians 2:11** But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

<sup>12</sup> For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he *began* to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision.

<sup>13</sup> And the rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.

**2 John 1:9** Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God;

the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

<sup>10</sup> If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching,

do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting;

<sup>11</sup> for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

## Do

**Matthew 7:21** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.

<sup>22</sup> "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

<sup>23</sup> "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'

<sup>24</sup> "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock.

<sup>25</sup> "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock.

<sup>26</sup> "And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand.

<sup>27</sup> "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall."

<sup>28</sup> The result was that when Jesus had finished these words, the multitudes were amazed at His teaching;

<sup>29</sup> for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as their scribes.

**Romans 3:28** For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.

<sup>29</sup> Or is God *the God* of Jews only? Is He not *the God* of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also,

<sup>30</sup> since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one.

<sup>31</sup> Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.

**James 2:14** What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

<sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,

<sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that?

<sup>17</sup> Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

<sup>18</sup> But someone may *well* say, "You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

<sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

<sup>20</sup> But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

<sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?

<sup>22</sup> You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected;

<sup>23</sup> and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God.

<sup>24</sup> You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.

<sup>25</sup> And in the same way was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works, when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

<sup>26</sup> For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

**You can choose the road but you can't choose where it leads.**

**The Two Final Destinations:**

**Revelation 20:11** And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

<sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds.

<sup>14</sup> And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

<sup>15</sup> And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

**21:1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea.

<sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them,

<sup>4</sup> and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be *any* death; there shall no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup> And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

<sup>6</sup> And He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

<sup>7</sup> "He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

<sup>8</sup> "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

All Scripture is from the NASV