

SALT AND LIGHT WARNINGS AND DETOURS

February 19, 2023 Matthew 7:13-23 by Bob Branch
The Presence of the Future, part 14

Have you ever bought into some bad beliefs or practices?

BIG IDEA: Don't get distracted from following Jesus and his kingdom way—even when it is difficult, and distractions and substitutes are plentiful.

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

2 gates and 2 paths to choose.

¹ Jesus says his _____ is narrow. (John 10:7,9)

“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” **John 14:6**

“There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.” **Proverbs 14:12** (Gal. 6:7-8)

¹⁵ “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Jeremiah 29

3 Main Criteria for evaluating prophets/prophecy:

1. Is it in line with what God reveals in Scripture?
2. Does what they predict come to pass?
3. What is the fruit of their words/ministry?

² Be a _____. (1Tim 1:18-20)

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

“Master, Master” “Enter the kingdom” “On that day” (Rom. 14:12; Heb. 4:13)

³ _____, and him you!

⁴ _____ of his father.

“... an expert in the law, asked a question to test him: “Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.” **Mt 22:35-40**

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”
Matthew 7:12

DISCIPLE QUESTIONS:

Am I walking the narrow way, or something wider and easier?

Am I believing any false teachers/teaching?

Am I discerning and fruit inspecting?

Am I exercising the gifts well, but am bankrupt with Jesus?

Am I engaged in being known by and knowing the Risen Christ?