



The Sermon on the Mount

Look Up

We have decisions to make each and every day. Some decisions have minor consequences. Others are life altering. But even the small decisions can add up. Decisions determine our habits. And habits determine our character. And our character determines nearly everything else! As Jesus wraps up his sermon, he brings us to a point of decision. It's really a decision about decisions! He is asking us to drive a stake in the ground and decide who will be king of our lives. Will we be our own king and live by our own standards? Or will we follow king Jesus? Moment by moment, we must decide. And how we decide determines how we will live and what will be our ultimate destiny.

- Read Matthew 7:13-29 several times together as a group.

Did anything catch your attention as you read this passage? What did you like? What is challenging or difficult to understand?

- This passage is all about contrasts. What things does Jesus contrast with each other as he concludes this teaching?
- What is wide about the wide gate, what is narrow about the narrow?

- One of the challenges of the narrow road is that we will be encouraged in many ways to take the easier path. False prophets may try to pull us from the narrow road. How does Jesus define a false prophet and how can we identify them?
- What do the two builders have in common with each other? What is different about them?
- Do you think the foolish builder purposefully chose a bad foundation or just wasn't thinking about the foundation at all? Are there areas of your life where you are like the foolish builder?

Read the passage again. What does it say about God? What does it say about us?

- What does it say about God that he has offered us a gate/road, good fruit and a solid foundation?
- Imagine if you were in the crowd – how do you think you would have responded?

Look Ahead

- Take a few minutes to reflect quietly on what you have discussed.
- How will you obey this passage? What is one thing you can do to replace anxiety with the things of God's kingdom?
- What is the name of the person you will share this passage with this week?
- Take a few minutes to pray for one another