

## JESUS TEACHES ABOUT ENTERING GOD'S KINGDOM, FALSE PROPHETS, AND STRONG FOUNDATIONS

Matthew 7:13-29

### Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What is the purpose of a warning?
- How do you build a strong foundation of faith? What “building materials” do you think you need to do so well?

Having lived among us on earth, Jesus uniquely understands our human condition. In the final verses of his well-known Sermon on the Mount, he offers three important warnings. He advises his followers to enter through the narrow gate, to watch out for false prophets, and to be like a wise man who builds his house on a rock. Each of these teachings offers us valuable insights, not for salvation, but for what we can expect from a life as his disciple. Study Jesus’ final teachings from the Sermon on the Mount with us for a better understanding of what it takes to enter God’s kingdom, how we can stay mindful of God’s grace and truth, and why building our spiritual life on a firm foundation matters.

**Listen:** [\*Jesus Teaches about Entering God's Kingdom, False Prophets, and Strong Foundations\*](#)

### Reflection

After listening, consider:

- What in your life distracts you from God’s grace? What about “the broad way” tempts you most to think you can take care of yourself?
- Reflect back on the actions from one day in your life (today or yesterday is probably easiest). Based on your attitude and behavior on that day, what type of fruit do you think your life is bearing? Now, knowing that each day is new, think about the day ahead. How can you better prepare yourself today to bear good fruit?
- How firm is your spiritual foundation? Are there any areas of your spiritual life that you would like to strengthen or in which you’d like to grow deeper?
- Which of Jesus’ teachings that we studied today gave you comfort? Which warning made you think or challenged you the most?

### Related Passages

- **John 14:1-14**
- **2 Timothy 4:1-5**
- **1 John 4:1-6**

- **Romans 12:1-2**
- **Romans 16:17-19**
- **Galatians 5:13-26**
- **Luke 6:43-49**

## Conclusion

At the opening of the episode, host Scott Hoezee comments that this section of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount "seems to be loaded with kind of bad news" and that it seems to be foreboding. However, as Scott and host Darrell Delaney discuss and study each of Jesus' three warnings, they repeatedly remind us that God provides everything we need to heed Jesus' warnings. Reflect on the following quotes from the episode:

- "...it is grace that brings us to the narrow gate. It is grace that makes the narrow gate look attractive to us" (Scott Hoezee, segment 1).
- "Jesus is the perfect embodiment of the kingdom. He is Mr. Beatitude, he is...the perfect fulfillment of the law; and so, in Jesus we see living kindness, patience, goodness, a willingness to forgive, gentleness; those are the things that if you see that growing on someone's life, they are probably the real deal" (Scott Hoezee, segment 2).
- "If you put those words into practice, that is the foundation—Jesus' teachings, Jesus' words, Jesus' model...his example. If we put them into practice, we are wise" (Darrell Delaney, segment 3).
- "If you get it right...if you are called into the kingdom and you have access to everything Jesus has taught...we have what we need for flourishing, and that is what God wants...He wants us to live lives of delight and flourishing" (Scott Hoezee, segment 3).

Do Jesus' teachings in Matthew 7:13-29 still feel foreboding to you? Why or why not? In what ways do they offer hope or encouragement to your faith? Reflect on your answers and then pray that the Holy Spirit would bring you encouragement today and guide you to flourish according to Jesus' teachings.

---

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/jesus-teaches-about-entering-gods-kingdom-false-prophets-and-strong-foundations>

*Printed on July 3, 2024*