

Jesus Teaches about Entering God's Kingdom, False Prophets, and Strong Foundations

Matthew's record of the Sermon on the Mount concludes with three crucial warnings. Jesus cautions 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. Through each of these teachings, Jesus offers his followers valuable wisdom for staying focused and rooted in God's grace. He reminds us that there is only one way into God's kingdom, he gives us the resources we need to protect our gift of faith, and he again offers us his boundless grace. Join us in studying these teachings and together we'll come to better understand how to recognize the distractions and lies of our world and gain strength to weather the storms of life.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- 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?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [*Jesus Teaches about Entering God's Kingdom, False Prophets, and Strong Foundations*](#)

READ [Matthew 7:13-29](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- 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 for further study

[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.

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