

The Gospel According to Matthew

Do All "Ways" Lead to Human Flourishing?

August 8, 2021

Matthew 7v13-29

13 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy[d] that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. 14 For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? 17 In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will know them by their fruits.

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 in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?' 23 Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.'

24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. 25 The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!"

28 Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, 29 for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

What if there is a massive difference between the way of Jesus and any other way? (v13-14)

(Not to be confused with a massive difference between me most the time and any other way, or cultural Christianity and any other way?)

Repentance is...

Do all ways lead to human flourishing? (v15-20)

What if ideas matter?

Three Part Kingdom:
1. The finger of God must move.
2. God must be confessed as Lord.
3. The people must obey. (v21-23)

A good time to reflect upon Jesus' unique way and our invitation to live within it.

What if Jesus wants to give you the kind of life that can withstand all of life's storms?

Books: *The Divine Conspiracy* by Dallas Willard

Podcasts: *The Word on Fire Show* #295: Bishop Barron Presents: Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen

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