

## MAIN POINT

***Because the path to the kingdom is so narrow, we must be careful who we follow to get there.***

## INTRODUCTION

Think of a time when you were faced with a tough decision between right and wrong, but chose to do what you knew was wrong. In what way was it the easier choice of the two? What were the consequences?

Now think of a time when you were faced with a similar decision, but chose to do what you knew was right. In what way was that choice more difficult? What were the rewards of doing so?

**At the end of His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus challenged His listeners to make a choice—would they follow Him through the narrow gate into the kingdom, or would they choose the second path of a wide gate that many enter, but leads to ultimate destruction?**

## DISCUSSION

### > READ MATTHEW 7:13-27.

How do we complicate the decision to follow Jesus? How do these verses remind us that following Jesus is an absolute surrender?

Are false prophets still present today? If so, what danger do they pose? How should followers of Jesus respond to them?

What are some of the most tempting but dangerous false teachings about Jesus and Christianity today? In what ways might they represent the “wider,” easier path of belief for our generation?

Why do you think Jesus chose the metaphors in verses 16-17 to describe false prophets? What do these images reveal about the seriousness of false teaching?

What did Jesus mean by “fruit”? What are some key characteristics of good fruit?

What stands out to you about Jesus’s words in verses 21-23? What did He mean by “doing the will of My Father” (v. 21)?

What were these people substituting for their relationship with Christ (v. 22)? Why isn’t having correct doctrine or effective ministries alone enough?

What are the outward marks of Christianity we consider important today? Could a person do those things and still not be known by Jesus? Explain.

How is following Jesus, as a foundation for our lives, either an all-or-nothing decision?

## APPLICATION

How are you pursuing the “narrow way” of Jesus? What needs to change in light of today’s study?