

The Disciple's Decision

(Matthew 7:13-29)

- Introduction:
1. The human experience is one of countless daily choices that must be made.
 2. God created man with the ability to choose.
 - a. (Deuteronomy 30:19).
 - b. (Joshua 24:15).
 - c. (1 Kings 18:21).
 3. As Jesus brings his sermon on the mount to a close, he calls for a decision that must be made.
 4. Beginning with verse 13, Jesus emphasizes the need for a decision by stating there are:
 - a. Two gates.
 - b. Two roads.
 - c. Two animals.
 - d. Two trees.
 - e. Two fruits.
 - f. Two destinies.
 5. As Jesus brings this sermon to a close, he wasn't looking for praise, critiques, or complements. Instead he demanded a decision from those who heard him.

I. The Two Gates & Two Roads

- A. (Matthew 7:13-14).
- B. I don't believe these two paths can be divorced from the context of this sermon.
 1. Jesus isn't simply contrasting the religious and the irreligious.
 2. He's contrasting the religion of the day with the demands of discipleship previously outlined in this sermon.
- C. Those bound for heaven are those who:
 1. Live out the beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12).
 2. Live their lives as godly examples (Matthew 5:13-16).
 3. Have a righteousness that exceeds (Matthew 5:17-48).
 4. Do good from a proper motive (Matthew 6:1-18).
 5. Those who trust in God (Matthew 6:25-34).

II. The Two Destinies

- A. (Matthew 7:13-14; 21-23).
- B. Life or destruction.
- C. The comments in vs. 21-23 reinforce that those under discussion in this context are the religious, not the irreligious.
- D. We have a choice of going through the motions of religion, doing good for ulterior motives, and having a surface deep religion, or we can truly commit ourselves to being genuine disciples of Jesus, attempting to model his life and teaching.

- Conclusion:
1. The decision is yours.
 2. The stakes - your eternal destiny.

3. While I cannot make the choice for you, I can only encourage you to choose wisely.