

# The Sermon on the Mount-(Concluded 6)

## Matthew 7:13-29

by R.A. Torrey

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of doing the will of the Father, not just saying it, and warns against false prophets and the broad way that leads to destruction.*

**Scripture:** Matthew 7:13

**Topics:** "Discipleship", "False Prophets"

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### Description

R.A. Torrey concludes his sermon on the Sermon on the Mount by emphasizing the stark contrast between the narrow way that leads to life and the broad way that leads to destruction. He warns against false prophets who may appear righteous but bear bad fruit, urging believers to discern their true nature by their actions. Torrey stresses that mere verbal acknowledgment of Jesus as Lord is insufficient; true discipleship requires obedience to God's will. He illustrates the importance of building one's life on the solid foundation of Christ's teachings, which will withstand trials and judgment. Ultimately, he calls for self-examination regarding which path one is on and the necessity of genuine faith and action.

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### Transcript

#### DISCOVERY OF THE FACTS

1. The Way of Destruction and the Way of Life, vv. 13-14 How many "ways" does our Lord say that there are? Where does the one way lead? Where does the other way lead? If one is not in "the way which leadeth unto life" in what way is he? What is meant by "destruction"? (Rev. 17:8; 19:20; 20:10.) What is meant by "life"? (John 10:28, 29; 17:3; 1 John 1:2.) What kind of a way is it that leads to destruction? Is it easy to enter? Is it easy to walk in? (Prov. 13:15.) How many go that way?

What kind of a way is it that leads to life? Is it easy to enter? What must a man do to enter it? (Matt. 18:3, 4; Acts 2:38; John 3:3, 5; John 14:6.) Is it easy to walk in? (Matt. 11:28-30.) Is it a disagreeable way to walk in? (Prov. 3:17.) How many are traveling that way? Why are so many traveling the broad way? (Jer. 17:9; Ro. 8:7.) Why are so few traveling the narrow way? (1 Cor. 4:14.) Which way are you traveling? 2. Beware of False Prophets, vv. 15-20 Of what class of persons does our Lord especially urge His disciples to beware?

What is meant by "false prophets"? Are there any other warnings in the Bible against them? (Deut. 13:3; Jer. 23:16; Matt. 24:4, 5, 11, 24; Mark 13:22; Ro. 16:17, 18; Eph. 5:6; Col. 2:8; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; 1 John 4:1.) Are there any false prophets in the world today? Will their number increase or decrease before the coming of our Lord? (1 Tim. 4:1, 2; 2 Thess. 2:3, 4, 8-10; 2 Peter 3:3; 1 John 2:18; 2 Tim. 3:13, R. V.) How can one avoid falling a prey to them? (Acts 20:29, 30, 32; 2 Tim. 3:13-17.)

How do they appear outwardly? What characteristics are indicated by "sheep's clothing"? What are they inwardly? What is meant by this description? Does the fact that a man makes fair pretences of humility and meekness and love prove that he is really a messenger of God? (2 Cor. 11:13, 14; Ro. 16:18.) How can we detect a false prophet (v. 16)? What are the fruits the real prophet of God bears? (Gal. 5:22, 23; 1 Cor. 13:1-8.) If we want good fruit, what must we have first? In order that a man may become a good tree, what experience must he pass through? (John 3:3, 5.)

Is there any attempt today in religious work to make bad trees bring forth good fruit? What is the fundamental fault with all "Ethical Culture" movements? If a tree does not bring forth good fruit what will become of it? Is it enough to save a tree that it does not bring forth bad fruit? Are there any modern trees that will be hewn down and cast into the fire? Into what fire will they be cast? (Matt. 13:41, 42; 25:41, 46; Rev. 20:15; 21:8.) What is the final test by which any man can be known? 3.

Saying and Doing, vv. 21-23 How do many people expect to get into the kingdom? Can any one enter the kingdom that way? Ought we to call Jesus "Lord"? (Ro. 10:9, 10.) When only will our calling Him Lord do any good? (Luke 6:46; 13:25-27; Matt. 25:11, 12; Acts 19:13-16.) Is it mere "saying" that God demands? What does He demand? What is it that we must do? What is the will of the Father in heaven? (John 6:29; 1 John 3:23.) Where will we find His will revealed? If then we are to do His will what Book must we study?

How long will many persons be deceived? Do the persons described in v. 22 really believe themselves to be a saved people? What had they done? Because a person preaches, casts out devils and does many wonderful works in the name of Christ, does it prove that he is really a disciple of Christ? Can one get into heaven that way? What will our Lord say to those persons who have called Him "Lord," etc., but who have never surrendered their own wills to Him (v. 23)? Where will they spend eternity? (25:41.) 4.

Building Upon the Rock and Building Upon the Sand, vv. 24-29 What two things must a person do in order to build upon the rock? What must he hear (v. 24, R. V.)? Where can we now find our Lord's words to hear them? Will hearing alone prove sufficient? What kind of a man is he that hears and does the words of our Lord? How is the house which every man builds to be tested? What will become of the house built upon the rock when the day of storm comes? Will it do any good to hear the words of our Lord if we do not obey them?

What kind of a man is he that hears His sayings but does not do them? What is such a one doing? How will his house be tested? Is every one's house sure to be tested sooner or later? What will become of the house of the one who hears the sayings of Jesus but does not do them? What kind of a fall will it be? What was the effect of our Lord's teaching upon the people? Why were they astonished? Why did He teach them as one who had authority? (John 7:16; 12:49; 14:10, 11, 24.) CLASSIFICATION OF TEACHINGS

## 1. God

A Father, His dwelling place--heaven, His will--the supreme law of the kingdom, 21.

## 2. Jesus Christ

The Son of God, the judge of the world, our Lord, 21-23; an incomparable teacher, taught as one having authority, 13-29; what we do with His sayings determines our destiny, 24-27.

## 3. The Two Roads

The broad road leading to destruction, many traveling it, 13; the narrow road leading unto life, few traveling it, 14.

## 4. False Prophets

Make an outward pretence of meekness and gentleness and innocence, in inward fact are fierce and predatory, 15; known by their fruits, 16.

## 5. Good Trees and Corrupt Trees

(1). A good tree: bringeth forth good fruit, 17; cannot bring forth evil fruit, 18; is known by its fruit, 20.

(2). A corrupt tree: bringeth forth evil fruit, 17; cannot bring forth good fruit, 18; is known by its fruit, 20; shall be cut down and cast into the fire, 19.

## 6. The Coming Judgment

There is a judgment coming, many will be disappointed in that day, 22; only one adequate preparation for it, not merely hearing but doing, 24-27; merely calling Jesus "Lord, Lord," prophesying in His name, casting out devils in His name, and doing many wonderful works in His name will not prepare one for that day, 22; Jesus Christ is the Judge, 23.

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