

False Prophets and the Broad Way - Part 6

by Zac Poonen

The sermon emphasizes the importance of following the narrow way and the dangers of being deceived by false prophets who make God's love and blessings conditional.

Duration: 8:39

Scripture: Matthew 7:13

Topics: "False Prophets", "Narrow Path"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of entering through the narrow gate and following the narrow way as Jesus taught in Matthew 5, 6, and 7. It warns against false prophets who lead people astray by broadening the path to include worldly desires and comforts, instead of focusing on purity of heart, hunger for righteousness, and integrity in words and actions. The message calls for humility and repentance, highlighting the need to be small in our own eyes like the amoeba to pass through the 'needle's eye' of God's way.

Transcript

Jesus said, how difficult it is. You have to go through a needle's eye. The false prophet comes and says, there's nothing doing.

It's so easy, man. Here are four steps. You get in.

And what is the result? Thousands get in. This looks like a huge crowd. The church is multiplying because the gate has been made wider and wider and wider and all types of people who haven't given up their sin, who haven't given up their love for the world, the love of themselves, the love of money, come in.

They are told that God loves you. It's true. There are verses in the Bible.

God loves you like He loves Jesus. He's got a verse. He's being said to the wrong person.

God will bless you mightily with the blessing of Abraham. That's also in the Bible. God is being said to the wrong person.

The fellow hasn't come through the narrow gate. He will never leave you nor forsake you. That's also in the Bible.

God is being said to the wrong person. You are more than a conqueror in Christ. That's also in the Bible.

God is said to the wrong person. These are the false prophets. At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, He says, false prophets.

First time He speaks about false prophets. I told you there are ravenous wolves seeking to take advantage of you. The other is, they will not tell you that the narrow gate and the narrow way is what Jesus spoke about in Matthew 5, 6 and 7. So, if you want to know what the narrow gate and the narrow way are, just read Matthew 5, 6 and 7. I tell you, you read it slowly.

It is extremely narrow. Very, very narrow. And most people don't like to make it so narrow.

They don't like to say, this is the way to life. So, they broaden it. And Christendom is full of people who have broadened almost everything written in Matthew 5, 6 and 7. And so, people are being pushed in.

They are being told, the main thing is, you know, keep fit. You must be slim. Eat good food.

And healthy habits. And marriage counseling. People must be happy as husband and wife.

These are things they talk about in the world too. And how God can prosper you in your business. All this type of stuff.

But what about things mentioned here? Blessed are the pure in heart. Those hearts are totally pure. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Who are crying out to God for righteousness. Where are the people who immediately go to somebody whom they have hurt and say, God is not listening to my prayer. Brother, please forgive me.

I hurt you with my words. And then go back to God and give their offering. Because they know God will not accept their offering without their settling matters with everybody.

Where are the people like that? Who say, my yes is my yes. I made a promise with my mouth. To me, it is as good as my having signed a sale deed or a document on stamp paper certified in a court.

My word is as good as that. That's what Jesus said. Where do you find Christians like that? We have Christians who go back on their word in 24 hours.

Yeah. The false prophets have done a tremendous work. Jesus says, you can't love God and money.

False prophets say, no, you can. That is how the way gate has been made so broad. All types of people are rushing in.

There are thousands and thousands of people coming together here and there. And everybody thinks they are on their way to heaven. Well, what a surprise they are going to get when Christ comes again.

But, from the beginning in this church we have proclaimed the narrow way, narrow gate, way of discipleship, way of repentance, way of, we have preached on the Sermon on the Mount numerous times, and we will do that until Jesus comes again. So, all we can say is God has given you the opportunity to hear, to repent. Whatever God has shown you.

We are not here to judge other people because one of the things in the Sermon on the Mount is don't judge others. We are not here to judge anybody. You judge yourself.

And say, Lord, I don't want to be fooled by the false prophets. So now we can think of what Jesus meant when he said, many will fall away. Does it look as if these 30,000 people sitting in the church have fallen away? It doesn't look like that at all.

They are singing and clapping the praise of Jesus, and they are holding up their Bibles and all that, and they come there every Sunday. It doesn't look as if they have fallen away. They have.

Because it's a sheep's clothing. That's all. It's a form of godliness.

The inner power of the Holy Spirit that makes them holy, that makes them live like the Sermon on the Mount tells them to live. They don't have. They don't hear about repentance, they don't hear about the acts being laid to the root of their selfish nature.

And so, they are deceived. So, brothers and sisters, we should thank the Lord that we can hear the truth. It's not a difficult way.

You know why? Let me say this in closing. Who can go through a needle's eye? A camel? I find it very difficult. Even an ant.

An ant may sort of scrape through the needle's eye. But, if you've studied biology, there's a thing called the amoeba. Have you heard of the amoeba? It's the smallest creature of all.

You've got to look through a microscope to find it. You tell the amoeba, can you go through a needle's eye? He says, no problem. I can run in and out of it all the time.

This is such a wide open space for me, he says. A needle's eye? It's so huge for the amoeba. For the amoeba, a needle's eye is as broad as this.

It's like asking you, can you go up and down this hall? Oh, no problem at all. That's exactly what the amoeba says about a needle's eye. Why? Because it's so small.

The secret of going through the needle's eye is to be small in your own eyes. To be nothing. Lord, I'm nothing.

I'm nobody. I'm nothing compared to other people. I'm nothing compared to anyone.

A needle's eye would suddenly become like a huge room for you. Why is it so difficult? It's difficult for the proud. Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, help us to go down and humble ourselves as Jesus did. To walk in the way he walked. We know that you give grace to the humble and grace will make us conquerors over everything.

Make it like that for each of us, Lord, we pray. Preserve us from deception in these last days. We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

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