

**Faith for the Present**  
**“The Narrow Way, Real Fruit and Relationship of The Kingdom”**  
**Sunday, October 4, 2020**

- \* All throughout The Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is teaching about this “new life in this New Kingdom!”
- \* He is constantly saying “the Law said” but “I say!” “I know you use to live by such and such standard, but I have raised the standard!”
- \* Then Christ contrasted the “false righteousness” of the Pharisees to the “true righteousness” of this New Kingdom!
- \* A righteousness that comes from change not control!
- \* We see Jesus telling us that we need to “focus on our own sin” rather than the “sin of others” as part of the true righteousness. (remember the speck and log)

Matthew 7:13-20 (TPT)

13 “Come to God through the narrow gate, because the wide gate and broad path is the way that leads to destruction—nearly everyone chooses that crowded road! 14 The narrow gate and the difficult way leads to eternal life—so few even find it!” 15 “Constantly be on your guard against phony prophets. They come disguised as lambs, appearing to be genuine, but on the inside they are like wild, ravenous wolves!<sup>[a]</sup> 16 You can spot them by their actions, for the fruits of their character will be obvious. You won’t find sweet grapes hanging on a thorn bush, and you’ll never pick good fruit from a tumbleweed. 17–19 So if the tree is good, it will produce good fruit; but if the tree is bad, it will bear only rotten fruit and it deserves to be cut down and burned. 20 Look at the obvious fruit of their lives and ministries, and then you’ll know whether they are true or false.”

- I. Throughout the Sermon on The Mount, Christ has taught about the character of those in His Kingdom!
  - A. In order to fully appreciate this passage we MUST remember this!
    1. If we don't we will make this a "heaven or hell" issue like we falsely do so many other things!
    2. Remember the Beatitudes!
      - a) Realize your utter desperation for God
      - b) Mourn for your fallen condition
      - c) Hunger to be right with God
      - d) Keep your heart pure and unmixed with the world
      - e) Make for peace in every situation in life
    3. Jesus says His desire is that we are "salt and light" to the world around us!
    4. He then says that righteousness is about "change and not control!"
    5. Jesus says His Spirit will empower us to love our enemies, turn the other cheek or refuse to retaliate, and live our faith out first inside our hearts and then to our world around us!
    6. Jesus says to learn to "value what God values" and to concentrate on our own sin and not others!

B. THEN, as we see from the passage today, we must learn to live and walk “the narrow way!”

II. The word used here for “narrow” is extremely interesting.

A. When Jesus said, “Narrow is the gate and “difficult” is the way,” the word for “difficult” is “CONFINING!”

1. The Jesus Way is confining in that you can’t... do what you want to do and act how you want to act!

2. That is the theme of the whole Sermon on the Mount?

3. The “character of this new kingdom” and the behavior of those who are a part of it!

Romans 7:18-19 (NLT)

18 And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can’t. 19 I want to do what is good, but I don’t. I don’t want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.

4. It is very important that we do not let this be an excuse for living anyway we want! “After all, Paul struggled!”

1 Timothy 6:6 (NLT)

6 A God-like life gives us much when we are happy for what we have.

B. We MUST realize that when God asked us to be Christ-like, He also empowers us to be so!

2 Peter 1:2-4 (NLT)

2 May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. 3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to

himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. 4 And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

1. So, we do have the ability to be "salt and light!"
  2. We can "love our enemies!"
  3. We can keep our hearts pure and "unmixed with the world!"
  4. We can "value what God values!"
  5. We can "turn the other cheek" and not let retaliation be our first motive!
  6. We can become more like Christ because He has given us His power to do so!
- C. This is when Jesus explains that this is not just "lip service" but literally the fruit of our lives!
1. Every good tree produces good fruit!
  2. We can't "fake it" because a "bad tree cannot produce good fruit!"
  3. Has God truly changed us from the "inside out?"
- D. Jesus then says, "Not everyone who SAYS they are a follower, is actually a follower!" (verse 21)