

Foundations Bible Study – Sermon on the Mount
Lesson 6

Scripture Readings:

- **Matthew 7:13-28**
- **Luke 6:43-49**

Lesson

This last section of Jesus' sermon is either the easiest to handle or the hardest to take. It depends on how you take it, is Jesus talking to me or those other folks? If I read this text in a spirit of self examination, it is a hard pill to swallow. I would encourage you to reread the scripture passage and think of how it speaks to you, before you begin pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts as you read it again.

We begin with the wide and narrow gates; one has many going through it, the other only a few. Here Christ seems to be saying how hard it is to really live a Christian life. It is easier to go through the wide way. Which way do you choose most days? Is your faith easy to live out daily? If you think living out your Christian faith is an easy task, then you live in one of two places: a Christian utopia or a dream world. With the teaching of Christ comes a feeling that life with God is a major challenge. Not an easy living world, not just strolling through life in bliss. But a life of constant strain and challenge, a life of prayer, a life of living for others, a life that takes a large amount of discipline. So again... which gate do you usually travel through each day?

Next Christ moves to the fruit of your life, are you fruity? Some may think you are. Christ wants to know if you are sweet or sour. (Don't ask my wife this one.) So... what do you think? Are your words sweet, are your actions loving, is your attitude positive, are you loving or rude, how is your driving, what did you spend the most time doing yesterday? Our lives should reflect the goodness of God, and that will cause us to bear good fruit. Here is another way to evaluate our faith, are you sweet or sour?

Last, Christ moves to conclude the sermon talking about how we react to it. Do we hear it and put it to use in our lives, or do we ignore it. Jesus tells us how important it is to live out His teachings in real life. It is so important that it is the foundation for living. Here in this sermon is the foundation for life in God through Christ. Is that true? I'm not sure. As was said at the beginning of this study, it seems this was Christ's coming out statement, a vision, a mission, a manifesto of practice of faith in God. It is different than the status quo, it is deeper than the normal spirituality, it contains more action lived out daily, not just on Sunday. It places a strong emphasis on how we live life with others, our family, our friends, our co-workers, our enemies.

Foundations Bible Study – Sermon on the Mount
Lesson 6

I really think that here in the Sermon on the Mount is the beginning of the revolution for changing the faith to an other-centered faith as opposed to a personal centered faith of the past. Christ wants to break out of the mold that has held back the followers of God and share with us a better way. That is why Jesus came to the world and this sermon is the foundation for the rest of His teaching and ministry. Later summed up by Jesus as: “Love God... and Love others”

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. What is so hard about the narrow gate for you personally?
2. Why do you think we seem to have such a hard time winning folks to Christ?
3. When evaluating your own life what fruits do you bear, sweet or sour? Share some good, sweet fruits you have seen in others that may be a good example for us all.
4. How do you insure that you have a foundation of solid rock?
5. What do you think is the primary message of Christ’s teachings? Is it found in the Sermon on the Mount?