



**08.27.17 | Stay Close to Jesus**

**Matthew 7:13-23**

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13 “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

15 Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit,

and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

21 Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

"Vision is the necessary prerequisite for ethics. So the Beatitudes are not a strategy for achieving a better society, they are an indication, a picture. A vision of the inbreaking of a new society."

- Stanley Hauerwas

### **Main Idea: Stay Close to Jesus.**

1. Be constrained
2. Beware!
3. Be close

1. Be constrained...by Jesus

“Jesus ends the great Sermon on the Mount with a set of warning signs. If you’ve come this far with him, you need to know it’s not just a matter of holding on to the steering wheel and hoping for the best. You need to concentrate, to take note of danger, to realize that you can’t presume on anything. You’ve got to keep your wits about you.”

- Tom Wright

“We must not think of the holy life, the way of sanctification, as something hard and grievous which puts us into a state of servitude. Not at all. The glorious possibility that is offered us by the gospel of Christ is development as children of God and growing ‘unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ’ ...So if you and I regard the ethical teaching of the New Testament as something that cramps us, if we think of it as something narrow and restrictive, it means we have never understood it. The whole purpose of the gospel is to bring us into ‘the glorious liberty of the children of God,’ and these special injunctions are simply particular illustrations of how we may arrive at that and enjoy it.”

- Martyn Lloyd-Jones

2. Beware! ...of anything that takes you away from Jesus.

“This warning of Jesus gives us no encouragement, however, either to become suspicious of everybody or to

take up as our hobby the disreputable sport known as 'heresy-hunting.' Rather it is a solemn reminder that there are false teachers in the church and that we are to be on our guard. Truth matters. For it is God's truth and it builds up God's church, whereas error is devilish and destructive."

- John Stott

"A man who visits a barber to be shaved, or who orders a suit from a tailor, is not a disciple, but a customer. So one who comes to the Savior only to be saved is the Savior's customer, not His disciple. A disciple is one who says to Christ, 'How I long to do work like Yours! To go from place to place taking away fear; bringing instead joy, truth, comfort, and life eternal...' To believe in Him is not such a great thing. To become like Him is truly great."

- Richard Wurmbrand

"Don't be impressed with charisma; look for character... 'You missed the boat. All you did was use me to make yourselves important. You don't impress me one bit. You're out of here.'"

- Eugene Peterson

3. Be close...to Jesus.

“Clothe yourself in the righteousness of Christ and not even death can strip you bare.”

- Chrysostom