



October 11, 2020

“Team Jesus”

Matthew 7:13-29

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In the closing verses of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus challenged his hearers about whether they really belong to him or not. Jesus’ sermon, the lengthiest ever recorded, is not just about how to live, but whether or not we will do what Jesus says. Being on ‘Team Jesus’ means that we have a relationship with him and will obey him. The Sermon on the Mount is not just about words; it’s about a way of life for the followers of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the narrow way that leads to life. Jesus is the Rock on whom we must build our lives.

False Confessions

1. Jesus condemns false confessions of people who say they are on Jesus’ team but aren’t.
 - a. [Matthew 7:13-14](#) - *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*
 - b. Pastor Gary said, “[Jesus addressed] the objection that many people, even today, still have about Christianity, and that objection is [that] Christians are too narrow-minded, that the idea that there is only one way to God is somehow offensive, and [that those who have an objection] don’t like how exclusive Christianity is in terms of the claim that Jesus is the only way to get to heaven, [and] to God.”
 - c. Pastor Gary said, “There are two gates. One is wide and one is narrow. There are two ways or paths. One is wide and one is narrow. There are two destinations. One of those paths leads to life and one of those paths lead to destruction. Jesus calls us to make a choice. Which path will you be on? ... Our lives are basically a compilation of choices and decisions that we make

over a lifetime, and this is the most important decision that one can ever make over the course of his or her life. [In a manner of speaking, Jesus] is giving us an open book test. ... Choose the narrow path [and] enter through the narrow gate, [which] is Jesus. ... [People will react to the exclusivity of Christianity by saying that] there are multiple ways to get to God. ... [People will also say that] anything narrow is bad. A narrow view or an exclusive position on an issue is today often regarded as wrong or bigoted or intolerant. [People believe that] broad-mindedness and being open-minded is... good or enlightened or educated. ... There is an aversion in our culture to anything that is absolute or anyone who is definitive in one's beliefs or convictions. [This] is viewed as being narrow-minded and it is not tolerated in our culture."

- i. **John 10:9a** - *"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved."* (1984 NIV)
- d. Pastor Gary said, "Have you ever noticed that many people who espouse tolerance are some of the most intolerant people on the planet? The people who want you to be tolerant are often intolerant toward you because tolerance to them is that if you agree with them, then they like you and they accept you. But if you disagree with them, they will label you, [attack you, and] dismiss you. ... If having a narrow view of some things, and by that... I don't mean that you refuse to hear other opinions or perspectives or ideas, [what I'm saying] is that you hold some things to be absolute, not relative. And if being narrow-minded or having a narrow view in that sense is something bad, then I want you to imagine for a moment a world without [a narrow view of some things]. ... [You want a pilot, a pharmacist, a surgeon to be narrow-minded!] ... When it comes to salvation, Jesus [made] an exclusive claim. ... The gate to God is narrow, but it is wide open to anyone who wants to enter. ... I'm just thankful that God made a way to be saved, and he opened that door to all who would believe by faith and receive."
 - i. **John 14:6** - *"Jesus said to [Thomas], 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.' "*
 - ii. **Proverbs 14:12** - *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."*
 - iii. **John 10:10b** - *"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."*
 - iv. **Psalms 16:11** - *"You will show me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."*

False Teachers And False Prophets

2. Jesus condemns false prophets who say they speak on God's behalf but don't.
 - a. **Matthew 7:15-16a** - *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's*

clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits."

- b. Pastor Gary said, "[Everyone] who claims to speak on behalf of God does not necessarily speak on behalf of God, and we have to be wise and discerning about it. ... If we should ever be alert about false teachers, it is in our day. ... Look at teachers, and authors, and pastors to make sure that they are legitimate. There are three primary ways that we can identify false teachers and false prophets. [First] is by the fruit of their doctrine. Any distorting, adding or subtracting from the Word of God makes for a false prophet or a false teacher. ... Adding to the Word of God is legalism, [and] subtracting from the Word of God is liberalism, and both are false teachers. ... [The Pharisees heaped legalism on people because they added more to the Word of God than what was there.] [If] you subtract things from the Word of God and you deny things from the Word of God, that's liberalism. Both are common today. ... Legalism and liberalism are the makings of a false teacher. The way you can spot false doctrine is to know right doctrine, and the way you can know right doctrine is to read your Bible!"
 - i. **Matthew 24:5** - *"For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many."*
 - ii. **Matthew 24:11** - *"Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many."*
 - iii. **Matthew 24:24** - *"For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."*
 - iv. **2 Peter 2:1** - *"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction."*
- c. Pastor Gary said, "Another way you can spot a false teacher is by the fruit of their lives. How consistent is their walk with God? Do they show a humility and a faithfulness in the way that they live? ... [There are many] who are in it more for the money than the ministry."
 - i. **Matthew 7:16b-20** - *"Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them."*
 - ii. **Jeremiah 6:13** - *"From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit." (1984 NIV)*
- d. Pastor Gary said, "[Another way you can spot a false teacher] is by the fruit of their followers. ... One must ask what kind of people are produced by the person's ministry? Are they solid, biblically sound people who live and love like Jesus, or does the fruit of their lives mimic the questionable fruit of the

teachers that they follow?

- i. [Luke 7:35](#) - *"But wisdom is justified by all her children."*

False Confessions Of False Teachers And False Prophets

3. [Matthew 7:21-23](#) - *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*
 - a. Pastor Gary said, "Let me try to put you at ease and try to share with you the context in which Jesus was speaking here. It seems within the context that [Jesus was] referring to the false [prophets]. ... The false prophets might be able to perform signs and wonders in the name of Jesus, but they never had a relationship with him; thus, they won't be admitted into heaven. Don't read this and... think [to yourself], 'I'm not going to get to heaven!' ... So, whomever Jesus was referring to, they never had a relationship with him. [Jesus] said, *'I never knew you.'* So, don't be afraid. If you have a relationship with Jesus, don't think that one day that the joke's on you."
4. Jesus commends true followers who hear and do what Jesus says.
 - a. [Matthew 7:24-27](#) - *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."*
 - b. Pastor Gary said, "[Jesus was saying], 'Are you going to hear what I'm saying and do it, or are you going to hear what I'm saying and refuse to do it?' ... It's like a firm foundation for your life. [If you don't have a firm foundation], it's like building your house on sinking sand. ... The foundations of your life will crumble if you don't do what he says. [If you hear Jesus' words and do what he says], then your life will be built on a firm foundation, a solid rock, and that solid rock is Jesus. [If we build our life on Jesus], we will be building our lives on a firm foundation that will stand the test of time and the test of trials. Because the winds will come, the floods will rise, the rain will pour, but the life built on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ will not crumble [or] falter."

Discussion Questions

1. Read [Matthew 7:13-29](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.

2. Spend time talking about Pastor Gary's remarks about the exclusivity of Jesus' claim to be **the way**. (Emphasis added) (See #1 above)
3. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences about what it's like to live in a time when the 'counterculture' appears to be winning the battle when it comes to shutting out or shutting down those who have a biblical worldview.
4. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments concerning false teachers and false prophets. (See #2b above)
5. Spend time talking about the importance of knowing right doctrine so you can spot false doctrine more easily. (See #2c and #2d above)
6. How do you deal with relationships with friends and family when it comes to the ways they embrace and live out false doctrine?
7. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments about not taking Jesus' words out of context when it comes to his statement, '*I never knew you; depart from Me...*' (See #3a above)
8. Spend time talking about Pastor Gary's remarks regarding the choice we have to build our life on Jesus Christ or building our life on sinking sand. (See #4b above)
9. Allow the people in your group to share examples of ways they have seen the Holy Spirit help them hear and obey biblical truth, which helps them build on a firm foundation.
10. Close your meeting by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.