

Sermon on the Mount
Christian Discernment
Matthew 7:12-20

The religious landscape of our society is extremely diverse. We have many different religions from which we can choose to follow. We also have many different ways that we can view these religions especially with regard to how they relate to each other. Are they all true? Do they all contain bits of truth and untruth? Do they all serve the same purpose and do we all end up in the same place?

1. The way we treat people matters.
2. The path we choose matters.
3. The teaching we embrace matters.

Jesus doesn't allow his followers to ride the fence, to take a middle road. He doesn't let us make up our own paths or forge a better way. He has already cleared the path and he did so through the shedding of his blood on the cross. There is no better way. There is no other way. In this age of influencers, the influence of the Logos, Jesus, the literal and figurative Word of God, must be our primary source of inspiration. Jesus wants us all in. Are we going to enter the wide gate and travel down the broad path to our destruction, or will we find the narrow gate and travel down the difficult path that leads to life?

Reflection

Take a moment to read Matthew 7:12 again. John Stott says about this verse, "Such love is beyond us apart from the grace of God." Think of situations where you have failed to live up to this high standard. Pray with an attitude of repentance and ask God for the grace to love others as He loves us. Jot down the differences between the two paths that Jesus describes in Matthew 7:13-14. To what extent have you found what Jesus says to be true in your own experience? If you believe that there is no third option, what are the implications for us, not just in our own walk with Christ, but also with regard to the gospel and the Great Commission? Why are false prophets so dangerous? How are we to discern what is false from what is true? Who do you need to stop listening to and who do you need to start listening to?