

- When fire comes which will last, Gold and silver, or hay and straw?
- What do these represent in the lives of believers?
- In verses 16-17 How can you be the temple of God?
- How can you destroy this temple?
- Why is this temple sacred?
- What will be the results of not taking care of God's temple?
- What changes should you make to take care of the temple that is referred to here?
- What will happen if you do not make these changes?



Personal Choices & Moral Dilemmas

A study lesson prepared by

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We have to make choices every day. Some of them are easy and some of them are extremely difficult. The choices we make today will affect what will happen to us in the future. We know this as truth, BUT, do we really strive to make the best choices or do we usually make the easy ones? Here at the end of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus highlights four ways we make choices and the future ramifications of our choices.

- ♦ **What are Morals?**
- ♦ **What determines a person's morals?**
- ♦ **Is there a difference between personal choices and moral choices? Explain your answer.**
- ♦ **How has our society changed the view of moral choices people make?**
- ♦ **How has this changed the church and believers?**

Matthew 7.13-27

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. ¹⁴But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

- List some narrow and wide gate decisions people have to make.
- Describe a situation where you had to make a decision to go with the flow or go against the flow and how you worked through the process
- Today most decisions are based on possessions and appearance. How does this affect how the world makes decisions?
- What is the final result of following the narrow road?
- What modern advertisement slogan (s) represent the wide path?
- What slogan would you write to represent the narrow path?

¹⁵“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Likewise every good

back on Jesus as the foundation ‘rock’ on which they should focus and build their faith.

- In verses 1-4 what phrases does Paul use to describe them as believers
- In verses 5-9 how does Paul describe himself and Apollos?
- What does Paul mean he planted?
- What does it mean Apollos watered?
- How did Jesus cause the growth?

In verses 10-15 Answer the following questions

- Who laid the foundation?
- Who do you think Paul was referring to when he said, “someone else is building on it?”
- What is the foundation that Paul is referring to here?
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FINAL QUESTIONS

- Is your life on the narrow or broad path? How can you know for sure?
- What personal changes do you need to make? Unless you are honest with yourself you will never change.
- Are you watching for the fruit of others or are you just willing to take them at face value?
- Why could this be dangerous for the life of the church? To you personally?
- Is everyone who calls themselves a Christian, a Christian? Explain your answer.
- What changes do you need to make because of this?

Personal application

Read 1 Corinthians 3.1-17

NOTE: The church at Corinth was having a problem around who was the best pastor they had ever had. Paul was the founding pastor of the church and Apollos was another pastor who had been there at the church. Some said they were followers of Paul and others followers of Apollos. Paul learned of this problem and was trying to get their eyes

tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

- In the time of Jesus who were the false prophets?
- How did Jesus deal with them?
- What is the difference between their appearance and their inward being?
- What danger is there in making decisions in the church based on outward appearance?
- What outward appearances should the church be careful of using as standards of acceptance?
- What fruit (s) should we be watching for to accept or reject people by.
- List good fruit and bad fruit that Jesus may be talking about for us to watch for.
- What is the final result of not bearing good fruit?

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

- What is difference between saying ‘Lord, Lord’ and doing the will of the Father? Give some examples.
- How can someone ‘prophesy in Jesus name’ or ‘drive out demons’ or ‘perform miracles’ and still not be recognized by Jesus?
- Define an ‘evildoer’ according to what Jesus says here.
- What is the final result of word but not deed belief?

²⁴“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

- What are the two things we are to do to have a solid relationship with Jesus?

- What is the one thing that separates solid Christian living from foolish Christian living?
- What do the rain, streams and wind represent in this parable?
- Who feels the rain, streams and wind according to Jesus?
- Why are some people overcome by the rain, streams and wind while others are not?
- List some examples from the news where people have been overcome by the rain, streams and wind.
- What does the rock represent?
- What does the sand represent?
- What is the final result of building on the rock? explain
- What is the final result of building on the sand? explain