

Sermon Title **The Two Ways III**

20080713-29M The Two Ways - Matt 7:13-21

Determination, Defense, Determination, Destination, Delineation,

Sermon Text.. **Matt 7:13-21**

**The Two Ways
Matt 7:13-21**

Invocation Scripture. . **Psalm 119:35**

Main Idea : There are two choices in everything. Jesus makes it clear that we must choose and shows us how to discern which way to choose.

Objective : **To help members see and realize that we face daily choices and that there is a serious attempt to cause us to choose the worlds way and not God’s way.**

We come to the third and final message in our series today entitled, “The Two Ways” We have seen the two paths, the broad way and the strait way, and we have seen the two views very clearly pictured by the Lord Jesus Christ, and these through illustrations that were very vivid and clear to anyone.

We have seen how this passage is so very relevant to what we are facing in our world today. We saw last week that it is possible to clearly delineate between who is on the broad path and who is on the strait path simply by the observation of their lives.

I know we don’t like to believe that this is the case, especially when we look at the lives of our children, grandchildren and even our close friends and associates, but the truth is beloved, if you are saved, if you have truly given your heart and life to Christ, **there WILL be a difference in your life.** This is taught by the Lord Jesus Christ here and reenforced by Paul in several places, but perhaps most poignantly noted for us by James, the half brother of the Lord Jesus Christ in his treatise on faith and works, where he clearly tells us that if there is no evidence of transforming faith, then there is no faith.

Today, we will see 4 very specific and clear things in these last verses. We will see

**The Two Ways
Matt 7:13-21**

Point I : Two Paths Matt 7:13-14

Point II : Two View. Matt 7:15-20

Point III: Two Destinies Matt 7:21-29

- a. The Declaration
- b. The Defense
- c. The Determination
- d. The Destination

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- 1. The Declaration..... Matt 7:21
- 2. The Defense. Matt 7:22
- 3. The Determination. Matt 7:23a
- 4. The Destination..... Matt 7:23b

Which leads me to our last thought this morning...

The Two Destinies

< < **Read: Matt 7:21-29** > > >

Point III: Two Destinies Matt 7:21-29

1. The Declaration..... Matt 7:21

The first thing that I want you to see today beloved is the **Declaration** of Jesus... Look back at vs 21.

Mat 7:21 *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven;*

You know beloved, it never ceases to amaze me the claims that some people make. Yet, in general we seem to be able to ignore many of these false claims, and in so doing, impune no negativity or disrespect on the organization or group to which they claimed affiliation. In fact, often, it's so easy to see the incongruity, of their actions and their claim, that we dismiss them without even a 2nd thought.

But on matters of Faith in Christ, it is an entirely different story. We will accept even the most fowl individuals declaration, and that it seems, without question. Even when we see nothing in their life consistent with this declaration, the culture labels them as Christian and then heaps all sorts of negative and

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derogatory accusations against, other Christians and Christianity in general.

Surely Satan loves such folly, and the demonic hosts cackle with glee to see such a pagan and perverse individual make verbal assent to something that they have no will, no ability,

in any other vocation or calling. If I were to go downtown to City Hall and walk into the court room and declare myself a judge, do you think that the bailiff would seat me at the bench and let me hear cases that day?

If I were to walk into the ER at Roanoke Memorial and declare myself a surgeon, do you think anyone would allow me to operate on them that day?

I THINK NOT!!! They would want proof, they would want evidence, they would demand credentials!!

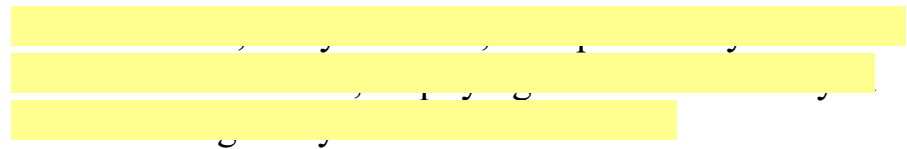
If I had none to give, I would be booted out, with no impunity held against the legal system or the medical profession.

But ANYONE... ANYONE can merely "say" they are a Christian and the world will look on... accept the statement and then loudly judge ALL Christendom with abject hostility base upon that individuals actions.

Christ will not be deceived!! For He knows the heart and mind and the life and actions of every man!! (Gal 6:7 NASB) *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.*

The Declaration of Jesus Christ is sure and it is sound. Matthew Henry writes so profoundly in his commentary on this passage...

“if inward impressions be not answerable to outward expressions, we are but as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal.”



But note further at the end of this verse that the Lord Jesus Christ not only declares the truth, He provides that the corroborative evidence is actually, manifested by our actions, our lives! Look what He says at the end of the verse...

but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.

Listen beloved, say what you want, but the proof of any statement is the evidence manifested in our life and in our actions. I have said most of my life...

“say what you can do, but do what you say you can.”

It is time for Christians, true Christians, to stand up and be counted, to show to the world the truth of Christ living in them... but beloved, these whom Christ's Confronts, these to whom this declaration is made, seek to defend themselves, they seek to justify themselves. Look back at the text at vs 22

2. The Defense..... Matt 7:22

Perhaps here I should have said, the justification, or their deception....

What does vs 22 say...

Mat 7:22 *"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?"*

What is it that they are saying here in their defense?

It's all about externals, all about what they think they are able to show the world, all about images, they are projecting, the hype, the spin, as we would say in our media oriented world today. **What is sad, is that some of them, doubtless, really believed that there was no justification for their being passed over!**

Others, perhaps most of them, they knew why they were passed over, they knew their insincerity, they knew well the ploy's and the playing that they had been doing all of their life. But so accustomed to the game, so habitual was the pattern that even standing before the judge of the universe, the One who knew all things, the One who could see right through their ruse, thinking that perhaps one more time they would be able to finagle their way out and dupe the Lord of the Universe, here they go... *“Lord... did we not... did we not.. Did we not..*

And the truth, is, (pause) **THEY DIDN'T!!!**

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Listen dear friends.... It has been well said that... ***an outward profession of religion, however remarkable, will not bring us to heaven, unless there be a correspondent conversation,***

Did you hear that?... **let me say that again. (Repeat)**

Listen friends... the sad truth is, we can often times fool the world... we can sometimes fool our friends, it may even be possible to fool those closest to us... **sadly, there are some, who even fool themselves!!**

Many of you may recall President Abraham Lincoln

... of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can not fool all of the people all of the time.

Abraham Lincoln, (attributed)
16th president of US (1809 - 1865)

What a tragedy then when you begin to even fool or deceive yourself!!

But hear me beloved.. listen.. let me tell you who can't fool any of the time! You can't Fool Christ!!

The world desperately needs to see authentic Christian living today!! You and I, must seize the opportunity to show the world the truth of our faith in our daily living! For some of those who look and mock, desperately long to know that there is something that is true, that there is a source of light and life and that their life too can be changed and they too can be freed from their past!!

O BELOVED, Let your walk, be equal with your

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talk!! Or for Heaven's sake, stop lying to the world that you are something that you refuse to live!!

[Redacted text block]

working miracles, but working miracles will never bring a man to heaven without grace.

Better to face the reality of who we are now!
Better to confess the truth of our inability and desperate need for God now! Better to humble our heart and bend the knee in obedience to the Father now...

And why is that?.... for the Bible clearly tells us that one day *“every knee will bow and every tongue confess, that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God!!”*

O beloved, Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. Gal 6:7

Heb 4:12 *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Look back then and see the response of the Lord Jesus Christ to these attempts to deceive, to look like

l Matt 7:23a

O Beloved, no more tragic, no more painful, no more final words will ever fall on the ears of man, than those of the Judge of the Universe pronouncing this clear Determination.

This is not a determination made by the evidence of others. This is not a determination that can be changed, this is an absolute and irrevocable determination, made by the one who has watched every step, by the one who has seen and knows the motivation of every choice and the attitude of the heart in every circumstance.

God Himself made it clear to Samuel that He does not regard the outward appearance but rather looks at the heart of mankind...

1 Sam 16:7 *But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*

O beloved, Jesus gives warning of this in Luke 16:15 where He rebukes the Pharisees...

And He [Jesus] said to them, "*You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God*

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knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.

Jesus retort was swift and sure. There is no hesitation! Just as a mother knows her children, the Lord Jesus Christ knows those who are His, for together through the good times and hard times of life the two have walked, and often... more often than perhaps we might realize, like that poem, footprints in the sand, it is He who has carried us.

Make no mistake about it friend, the Lord knows His own! Paul assures Timothy of this truth in 2 Tim 2:19 *Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His..."*

And beloved... the end of those whom He does not know is separation from Him... That is our last thought today friends.... a profoundly tragic thought...

4. The Destination..... Matt 7:23b

Jesus declares that those whom He does not know should depart from Him. Those who have not truly loved Him nor served Him, but rather have sought and served themselves, they will be banished from his presence for all eternity.

There is no second chance here beloved, no

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reprieve. This is the final determination that sets the sentence upon their lives of the final destination.

I can not scarcely comprehend the gravity and terror of this moment.

And where is it that these are destined?.... Turn to

< < < **Read: Matthew 25:41-46** > > >

The Lord Jesus, wraps this all up in a very poignant image where He contrast two builders and two buildings... Look back at Matthew 7:23-27

So the question then my friends is very simple, and like the couplets we have seen at every juncture and in every point, there are once again set before us 2 possibilities... Wise or Unwise....

Which will it be?...

What path will we choose?

The Broad Way are the straight way?,

To which prophets will we listen?

The False prophets or the True prophets?

For hear me... Hear me....

The choices you make there, will... not might, WILL determine your eternal destination..

What Will.... You.... Choose....?

Let us pray