

# GREAT WAS ITS FALL

Matthew 7:13-29

Theme of Matthew: "Behold your King is coming to you" (Zech.9:9-11; Mt.21:4-5)

Theme of the Sermon on the Mount: Life Styles of the Rich and Famous

## **I. THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT BEGAN WITH BLESSING AND ENDS WITH FOUR EXHORTATIONS AND WARNINGS**

- Enter through the narrow gate (Matthew 7:13-14)
- Beware of False prophets (Matthew 7:15-19)
- Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7:21-23)
- Everyone who hears His words and acts on them is like a wise man. Everyone who hears His Word and does not act on them is like a foolish man (Matthew 7:24-27).

### **A. The closing words of the last three illustrations Jesus uses end with words of judgment.**

1. "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire" (Matthew 7:19).
2. "I never knew you; Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness" (Matthew 7:23).
3. "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall" (Matthew 7:27).

### **B. The emphasis of Matthew 7:13-27 is that we must put into practice the Words of Jesus.**

#### 1. NEGATIVELY:

- a. If we listen to the Sermon on the Mount, but our lives have not been changed our life with end in destruction (v.13).
- b. If we allow false prophets to pervert the Words of Jesus and if we follow them, we will be devoured like sheep by wolves (v.15).
- c. If we listen to the Words of Jesus and do not do them, Jesus will declare to us on the Day of Judgment, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness" (v.23)
- d. If we do not act on the Words of Jesus and make them a part of our thoughts, words, and deeds then we are foolish and the entire labor of our lives will be lost forever (v.27).

#### 2. POSITIVELY:

- a. If we enter through the narrow gate, we will find life (Matthew 7:14)
- b. If we obey the Words of Jesus, we will bear good fruit in our lives that will last beyond the judgment (Matthew 7:17)
- c. If we call Jesus "Lord" and do what He says, we will enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 7:21)
- d. If we hear the words of Jesus and act on them, the rain, the floods and the blowing and slamming of the wind will not demolish our life's labor because it was founded on the rock (Matthew 7:25)

## **II. THE IMMORAL MAJORITY & THE MORAL MINORITY: THE NARROW AND WIDE GATES**

(Matthew 7:13-14; Deut.11:26; 30:15; Psalm 1:6; 119:29-32; 139:24; Prov.28:6,18; Jer.21:8)

A. In verses 13-14 Jesus makes four contrasts.

B. Those who enter the gate and walk the narrow way of righteousness are few (Matthew 7:14).

1. Of all the earth, Noah alone found favor in the eyes of the LORD (Genesis 6-8).
2. God said that He would not destroy Sodom and Gomorrah if ten righteous people were found. Not even Lot's wife made it out; she looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt (Genesis 18-19).
3. In the days of Elijah, the majority of people turned to Baal worship. Only 7,000 had been kept from bending the knee to Baal (1 Kings 19:10,14,18; Romans 11:4).

### III. FRUITS AND FALSE PROPHETS (Matthew 7:15-20; 24:11,24; 2 Peter 2:1-22; 1 John 4:1-3)

- A. A false prophet is any person who teaches something contrary to the Law and the prophets and the words of Jesus and whose teaching leads to God's judgment (Mt.5:17-18; 7:24-27).
- B. False teachers bear fruit of unrighteousness: heresy, sensuality, homosexuality, adultery, pornography, pedophilia, polygamy, covetousness and greed (2 Peter 2:1-3).
- C. The only way that we can escape false prophets is by the Word of God (Acts 20:29-32).
  - 1. "savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock" (Acts 20:29 with Matthew 7:15).
  - 2. "be on your guard!" (Acts 20:31 with Matthew 7:15).
  - 3. "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (Acts 20:32 with Matthew 7:24-27).

*Did you know?*

Forms of the word "doing" (*poiein*) occur some 22x in the Sermon on the Mount (Clarke, *The Gospel of Matthew and Its Readers* p.93).

### IV. DOING THE WILL OF THE FATHER (Matthew 7:21-23)

A. When we think of evildoers and those who practice lawlessness we picture mug shots. We think of the pictures of the FBI's most wanted. But Jesus defines those who practice lawlessness much more narrowly; in fact, they are the kinds of people who call Jesus "Lord"!

- B. The practice of righteousness is more important than prophesying, casting out demons, and performing miracles in the name of Jesus.

C. The essence of discipleship is hearing and obeying Christ's commandments (Matthew 28:18-20).

"In much contemporary evangelism, there is little concern for whether or not God will accept us, and much concern for whether or not we will accept him. Little attention is paid to whether or not we please him, and much to whether or not he pleases us. Many popular evangelistic methods are molded by these considerations. As a result, there is far too little stress on God's character and the requirements of the kingdom, and far too much stress on our needs" (D.A. Carson, *Jesus' Sermon on the Mount* p.126).

### V. BUILDING FOR ETERNITY (Matthew 7:24-27)

James 1:21-24 (NASB95)

21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;

24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

## QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

*Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer. Are you and will you commit each and every day of the rest of your life to the seeking first of God's kingdom and the pursuit of His righteousness?*

*What is the emphasis of Jesus in the last verses of the Sermon on the Mount? What are the last words that He spoke?*

*Have the number of those who have entered through the narrow gate ever been many? When Jesus returns will the number of the saved on earth be many? (see Revelation 16:13-16; 20:7-10).*

*What is a false prophet?*

*What are the fruits of false prophets? Do you think that false prophecy is more popular than true prophecy in our day?*

*What is the way by which we can escape from false prophets?*

*What are "evil doers" or who are they who "practice lawlessness"?*

*What is the essence of discipleship?*

“It is true, of course, that no man enters the kingdom because of his obedience; but it is equally true that no man enters the kingdom who is not obedient. It is true that men are saved by God’s grace through faith in Christ; but it is equally true that God’s grace in a man’s life inevitably results in obedience. Any other view of grace cheapens grace, and turns it into something unrecognizable. Cheap grace preaches forgiveness without repentance, church membership without rigorous church discipline, discipleship without obedience, blessing without persecution, joy without righteousness, results without obedience. In the entire history of the church, has there ever been another generation with so many nominal Christians and so few real (i.e., obedient) ones?”  
D.A. Carson, *Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount* pp.139f.