

Problem of Indecision – *hesitation, reluctance, procrastination*

- People-pleasing
- Perfectionism
- Possibilities: number of options, choices, & information
- Pain

The **decisiveness** of God brings us to **decision points**.

God is always navigating us to **decision points**.

Matthew 7:13-27

- No new commands or principles
- Four pictorial contrasts (black & white)
 - Decisiveness
 - Seriousness
- Decisive for the Kingdom ... x3 Factors

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter through the **narrow gate**. For the gate is **wide** and the road **broad** that leads to destruction, and there are **many** who go through it. ¹⁴How **narrow** is the gate and **difficult** the road that leads to life, and **few** find it.

Narrow Gate:

- Not easy (“difficult”)
- Not everyone (“few”)

So ... WHY ENTER?

For Kingdom people the why is **Who**.

1) **Devotion** to Jesus.

Devotion:

- Sees the value
- Understands the opportunity
- Increases discipline
- Produces perseverance

Jesus is the greatest and the best.

He is also **right**.

We always live up or live down to our beliefs (~*what we are most devoted to*).

The Invitation to Enter ...

- a) Uncover unbelief: What >> Who
- b) Get more information or increase devotion?

Matthew 7:15a

“Be on your **guard** against ...

The sphere of **blessing** is also a sphere of **battle**.

Matthew 7:15

Be on your guard against **false prophets** who come to you in **sheep's** clothing but inwardly are ravaging **wolves**.

The Mind is the battlefield: words, ideas and images

→ What occupies **the mind** governs what we do/decide

Matthew 7:16-20

You'll recognize them by their **fruit**. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree can't produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that doesn't produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ So you'll recognize them by their **fruit**.

Matthew 7:21-23

Not everyone who says to me, '**Lord, Lord**,' will **enter** the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who **does the will of my Father in heaven**. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?' ²³ Then I will announce to them, '*I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!*'

2) Danger of **deception**

- People deceive (vv. 15-20)
- People are deceived (vv. 21-23)

→ Discernment Deficit

Does this ... draw me beyond **myself** and toward more **devotion** to Jesus?

False prophets: the focus (~devotion) is self

Does this ... distract from or devalue **obedience** (to the will of God)?

- Obedience flows from devotion.
- Obedience over usefulness.

Matthew 7:24-27

Therefore, everyone who **hears** these words of Mine and **acts** on them will be like a **wise man** who built his house on the **rock**. ²⁵The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the **rock**. ²⁶But everyone who **hears** these words of Mine and **doesn't** act on them will be like a **foolish man** who built his house on the **sand**. ²⁷The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash."

3) Decide with ultimate destiny in mind.

- Made for more ...
- Immediate gratification vs. ultimate satisfaction
- WARNING, COMFORT, EXPLANATION
- PROMISE ...

Kingdom people live from the **future** into the **present**.

- Only what is of Christ lasts ... is indestructible ... brings eternal joy.

God's decisiveness ... our decision