



Sermon: The Way vs. the Wolves

Text: *Matthew 7.13-20*

Preacher: *Rev. Robby Holt*

Introductory questions -

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus called for a choice between the narrow gate and difficult road, which lead to life, and the wide gate and the easy road, which lead to destruction. Shortly after Moses died, when the Israelites were about to enter the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua, Moses presented them with a similar choice.

1. Read Deuteronomy 30.11-20. What was promised as a result of obedience? And what was promised as a result of disobedience?

Psalm 1 also offers a sharp contrast between two ways: the way of the righteous person and the way of the wicked person. It finds no in-between state or compromise between the two.

1. Read Psalm 1. What does the righteous person do? What does the righteous person “not” do?

Reflection questions -

1. Why are broad gates and false prophets so appealing to people today?
2. How are the two gates described (vv. 13-14)?
3. In what sense is the gate of Christianity small and the road narrow?
4. In what sense is the world’s gate wide and its road broad?
5. Why do you think many people dislike the notion that there is only one true gate?
6. Why is it significant that Jesus’ warning about false prophets (vv. 15-20) comes immediately after his discussion of the narrow and wide gates?
7. Jesus says that false prophets “come to you in sheep’s clothing (v. 15). What disguises might they wear today (see. vv. 21-23)?
8. What false messages or prophecies have you heard recently? How could you tell they were false?
9. In what sense are these false prophets like ferocious wolves?
10. Jesus also says, “By their fruit you will recognize them” (v. 16). What kind of fruit does he have in mind? How can the quality of the fruit reveal the quality of the tree?
11. “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire” (v.19). How can this warning to false prophets also keep us from becoming complacent as Christians?