

THE TWO FOLLOWERS

At the end of the Sermon on Mount, Jesus made an appeal to the listeners to choose the grace way of salvation in Jesus Christ – “**Not everyone** who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; **but he who does the will of My Father** who is in heaven.” (Matt.7:21)

The final section of the Sermon on Mount closes with four metaphors that we will study in our special.

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| • Two Gates | Wide vs. Narrow | (Matt.7:13-14) |
| • Two Trees | Bad and Good | (Matt.7:15-20) |
| • Two Followers | False and True | (Matt.7:21-23) |
| • Two Builders | Foolish and Wise | (Matt.7:24-27) |

Today’s lesson is an extension from last week’s lesson of the Two Trees – “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.” (Matt.7:15)

**We will study five aspects of the Two Followers.
One Follower was a false prophet. The other Follower was a true prophet.**

1. In the metaphor of the Two Followers, Jesus contrasted two followers who appeared very similar. Both appeared to be saved but in fact only one was saved.

“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.” (Matt.7:22)

Yet one follower will not enter and remain unsaved – “**Not everyone** who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ **will enter** the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt.7:21a)

While the other will enter and be saved – “But he who **does the will of my Father** who is in heaven.” (Matt.7:21b)

Notice that both appeared to be prophets. Both talked and walked it yet only one was saved. The unsaved prophet is described as practicing lawlessness – “Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.” (Matt.7:22b).

2. The doctrinal point of this metaphor is the criteria for entering the kingdom of heaven.

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter (eiserchomai / f.m.ind) the kingdom of heaven; **but** (alla / contrast) **he who does** (ho poieo / p.a.ptc) **the will (te thelema) of My Father** who is in heaven.” (Matt.7:21)

Did you notice that **only one** of the followers entered into the kingdom? “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot **enter** the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5) “Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘**You must be born again**.’” (John 3:7; 1 Pet.1:23)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he **who hears** My words, **and believes** Him who sent Me, **has eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but has **passed out of death into life**.” (John 5:24)

“For **this is the will of My Father**, that everyone who **beholds the Son and believes** in Him, may have **eternal life**; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:40)

3. **You might wonder how unbelievers could do the things listed in our lesson text like “prophesy in Your name, in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles.” (Matt.7:22)**

One example would be the seven son of Sceva, a Jewish priest (Acts 19:13-20)

“But also some of the **Jewish exorcists**, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, ‘I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.’”

“And the **evil spirit** answered and said to them, ‘I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?’” (Acts 19:15)

Simon the sorcerer would be another example (Acts 8:9-13, 18-24).

“And many **false prophets** will arise, and will mislead many. And because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.” (Matt.24:11-12)

“For **false christs and false prophets** will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.” (Matt.24:24)

The false prophets or followers are described as lawless:

“And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, **you who practice lawlessness.**’” (Matt.7:23; 1 John 3:4-5)

4. **“On the day of judgment,” these two followers will be separated for all eternity
“Depart (apochoreo / p.a.impv.2pl) from Me.”**

This is the day of the judgment of the world (Matt.3:7-12) – “Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, because He has **fixed a day in which He will judge the world** in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.” (Acts 17:30-31)

Matt.7:23 contains the **saddest 7 English words** of all eternity – “I never knew you; depart from Me.”

Tragedy of tragedy is for those who profess Christ and engage in religious activities but have refused to believe that Jesus died for their sins and was buried and raised from the dead on the third day to give them eternal life on the basis of God’s grace (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

“For I say to you, that **unless your righteousness surpasses** that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall **not enter** the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt.5:20; 2 Cor.5:21)

5. **The unbeliever will be cast into the lake of fire prepared for the Devil and his angels for all eternity.**

“Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘**Depart from Me**, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angles.’” (Matt.25:41; Rev.20:10-15)

Why were they shut out? Because they **didn’t do the will of God** regarding grace salvation in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Matt.7:21).

They rejected the message of John Baptist and declared him demon possessed (Matt.11:18).

They rejected the message of Jesus Christ and declared Him to just like the gluttons, drunkards, tax-gatherers, and sinners who seemed to love Him (Matt.11:19).

“**And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**” (Rev.20:15)