

# Deciding for Jesus

## Chapter 24

### Audio lesson: Sermon on the Mount 24



Objective: To understand the great invitation that Jesus gives to anyone who would follow Him. (Text: Matthew 7:13-27)



*“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”*

—Matthew 7:13-14

*“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

—Matthew 7:21

*“Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”*

—Matthew 7:24

Having given three calls for commitment, which ended with the Golden Rule, Jesus now gives a hard invitation. This is a challenging call to become committed disciples, solutions and answers and to reach the world for Him. It is a pointed challenge that asks, “Are you going to be part of the problem or part of the solution?”

The first part of this passage asks, “What kind of disciple are you?” There are two possible answers: one of the many, or one of the few. The many merely profess to be salt and light, but they are not. They think there is an easy way to be part of the solution. The few, on the other hand, know there is no easy way. They know the gate is small and the road that follows that gate is narrow, difficult, and disciplined.

The next part of this passage asks, “Are you a true disciple or a false disciple?” In a later parable, Jesus teaches that even His true disciples will not be able to tell the difference at first. Only by examining the fruit, over a period of time, are the differences between the true and false visible.

The third part of this passage asks, “Are you a disciple who only says, or who actually does, the will of the Father?” Doing many wonderful works is not evidence of a true relationship with Jesus. His response to those whose discipleship consists only of words is this: “Depart from me, worker of iniquity.”

Jesus was not idealistic or pessimistic. He was a realist. He taught that life has storms, and no one is immune. Those who build their lives on His teaching will survive, and those who do not will not. His great sermon ends with a challenge: “What kind of disciple are you?” Your answer determines whether or not you will survive the storms.



1. True or **false**? Being salt and light in the world is easy.
2. True or **false**? Those who believe the right things, say the right things, and call Jesus “Lord” are truly His disciples.
3. **True** or false? Hearing Jesus’ words and doing them are not the same thing.
4. True or **false**? Jesus taught His disciples that whoever obeys Him will not have to go through storms.

*Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.*

5. According to Jesus, what is the best way to recognize false prophets?
  - a. **By their fruit**
  - b. By their appearance
  - c. By their words
  - d. By the way they isolate themselves from true believers
6. What does Jesus say to those who call Him “Lord” but do not truly believe and obey Him?
  - a. “You did your best.”
  - b. **“Depart from me.”**
  - c. “Keep trying.”
  - d. “Calling me ‘Lord’ is enough.”

7. What is the key to surviving the storms?
- a. Believing in Jesus
  - b. Calling Jesus “Lord”
  - c. Doing what Jesus says**
  - d. Being amazed by Jesus’ teaching



How do you know if you are a true disciple of Jesus? If you have noticed any hypocrisy in your relationship with Jesus, what can you do to root it out?

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Thank God for all of His life-giving words to you. Ask Him to help you know Him more deeply, to help you be a committed follower of Jesus, and to use you as part of His solution for the world.



## Going Deeper

1. Is there a gap between what you say and what you do? How can you close that gap? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Do you know if you are a true disciple of Jesus? Are you part of the problem, or part of the solution? What kind of solution are you? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What is the Lord doing through you to help others? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Describe a situation where you had a clear choice between the “wide” and “narrow” gates.

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5. Is evangelism more a matter of talking or doing? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. What spiritual disciplines are you using to get to know Jesus more intimately? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Which is more important to our eternal destiny, many wonderful works or knowing Jesus? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Sermon on the Mount Self-Evaluation**

**Grade yourself 1 – 5 (Circle one)**

**Matthew Chapter 5**

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|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. I realize that I need God in my life. V3                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. I am remorseful when I do the wrong thing. V4                 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. I am gentle and humble. V5                                    | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. I strive to do the right thing. V6                            | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. I am merciful. V7   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. I have pure motives. V8                                       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. I am a peacemaker. V9   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. I am living for God and His Kingdom. V10                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. Everyone knows I am Jesus' follower. V 11                     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10. I have done good deeds lately. V 16                          | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 11. I am doing my best to know and obey God's Word. V 19         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12. I am teaching others God's Word. V 19                        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 13. I am currently angry with someone. V 22                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 14. I treat everyone like they are made in God's image. V 23     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 15. Someone has something against me. V 23                       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 16. I have a problem with lust. V 28                             | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 17. I am attracted to a person who is not my spouse. V 28        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 18. I avoid people, places and things that tempt me to sin. V 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 19. I think about divorce while neglecting my spouse. V 32       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 20. I honor my commitments and do what I say I will. V 37        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 21. I take revenge on those who wrong me. V 39                   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 22. I am quick to forgive. V 39                                  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 23. I am a generous person. V 42                                 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

24. I pray for people I don't like and who are against me. V 44 1 2 3 4 5

25. I am kind and loving to those who are not my friends. V 47 1 2 3 4 5

### **Matthew Chapter 6**

26. I am doing good deeds to please God rather than people. V 1 1 2 3 4 5

27. I am spending time alone with God in two-way prayer. V 6 1 2 3 4 5

28. I need to forgive someone. V 14 1 2 3 4 5

29. I fast secretly before the Lord. V 16 1 2 3 4 5

30. My treasure is stored in Heaven. V21 1 2 3 4 5

31. I try to serve both God and money. V 24 1 2 3 4 5

32. I trust God to provide for my physical needs. V 25 1 2 3 4 5

33. I worry about what may happen tomorrow/in the future. V 34 1 2 3 4 5

### **Matthew Chapter 7**

34. I am judgmental towards others. V 1 1 2 3 4 5

35. I give my pearls to swine. V 6 1 2 3 4 5

36. When I pray I seek, ask, and knock. V 7 1 2 3 4 5

37. I treat others the way I would like to be treated. V 12 1 2 3 4 5

38. When I make decisions I choose the gateway to life. V 14 1 2 3 4 5

39. Others can tell I am a Christian by my behavior. V 16 1 2 3 4 5

40. I listen for and obey God when He speaks into my life. V 21 1 2 3 4 5

41. I am building my life on the Rock and not on sand. V 24 1 2 3 4 5

***In conclusion, as a disciple of Jesus Christ, briefly describe any commitments you believe God is leading you to make:***

*Toward God:*

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*In your relationships with family, friends, and others:*

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*Toward other disciples (the church):*

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*Toward enemies and those who do not know the Good News:*

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