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STEVE: Read This:

Matt. 5:43 *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 **"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,** 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; **for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.** 46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 "If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

STEVE: Why did I read this Scripture AGAIN?

Some of you MAY have heard when I taught last week...that Israel is STILL the chosen Nation of God and has promises of God YET to be fulfilled and that God ALWAYS keeps His promises (TRUE)...BUT....that "Somehow I was also saying that everything Israel does is Good, and therefore we must ALWAYS support Israel's actions and rejection of Jesus"....**I DIDN'T SAY THAT!!!!**

> **Remember: Paul even said:** *From the sake of the Gospel they are enemies* ***Israel is still under the discipline of God so leave discipline to God,*** as our Job is to come alongside Israel and to pray for her, especially that her rejection of God would cease...and that she will come back to the ONE TRUE GOD OF HER BIRTH and trust in *her* Messiah Jesus!!!!

TODAY'S SERMON: Two Gates and False Prophets

TWO WEEKS AGO PASTOR SAM taught on ASK, SEEK and KNOCK as Jesus desire for His followers to have greater intimacy with God, a deeper prayer life **AND MORE OF GOD AND LESS OF ME!!!!!!**

> AND IT ALL BEGINS WITH A CHOICE AS TO WHICH GATE YOU ARE GOING TO KNOCK ON AFTER WHEN YOU SEEK AFTER OUR ONE TRUE GOD!

WATCH THIS: JESUS doesn't turn away ANYONE who knocks on the Narrow GATE that leads to eternal life.

No one goes to hell unless they refuse to place FAITH in Jesus Christ! Every Human has the choice as to whether they want a personal relationship with our almighty God who LOVES each and every one of His creation!

> **As a disclaimer, I personally believe** the Bible teaches that very young *children* and *those who are incapable of choice* are covered by the same grace of God, that saves each of us who DO HAVE CHOICE AND CHOOSE JESUS AS OUR LORD AND SAVIOR....

HERE IS THE ANALOGY JESUS GIVES EACH OF US...

Matt. 7:13 *"Enter through the **narrow gate**; for the **gate is wide** and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14 "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

To be clear, "destruction" is NOT to cease to live BUT, eternal torment in a real place called Hell...

In this same Book of Matthew, Jesus calls this destination "ETERNAL FIRE" which was created for fallen angels, not humans....HOWEVER.....BAD NEWS!

Matt. 25:34 *"Then the King will say to **those on His right**, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

Matt. 25:41 *"Then He will also say to **those on His left**, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones,* (Those who have refused the Love of God) *into the **eternal fire** which has been prepared for the devil and his angels...46 "These will go away into **eternal punishment**, but the righteous into eternal life."*

I can't believe anyone when presented with such a clear choice would choose eternal death and separation from God over eternal life with God, living forever on a NEW earth and a NEW heaven FOREVER, But they do!!!! **WHY?**

Here is ***"ANOTHER"*** Reason from Jesus Himself...

Matthew 7:15-23 *BEWARE of False Prophets* *who can lead you astray or even KEEP YOU FROM JESUS, just like the religious leaders of Jesus day sought to keep the people from coming to Jesus...*

They told the people to make a choice, (Trust in us or trust in Him!)

NOW HERE IS OUR TEXT FOR TODAY...

Matt. 7:15 *"Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 "You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? 17 "So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19 "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 "So then, you will know them by their fruits. 21 "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 will enter. 22 "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?* ***23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, You who practice lawlessness.'***

Has THIS passage caused fear in you! PERHAPS YOU FEAR DENYING JESUS: Just like the disciples when Jesus told them in the Upper Room, *"One of you will betray me"* and they started asking Jesus, *"Is it I Lord, is it I Lord"!*

They were all freaking out thinking Jesus might be calling one of the believing disciples out as a traitor and they were ALL scared to death!

1. Eleven of the 12 disciples knew they were sinners in need of a savior
2. Eleven of the 12 disciples knew any sin was possible with humans
3. They were all afraid AS BELIEVERS, except ONE: (Judas the NON-believer)

WATCH HERE as The Apostle John exposes Judas as a *false prophet, a false believer WHO WOULD BECOME a wolf in sheep's clothing*...

In John Chapter 6: These are verses that Jesus was teaching His disciples

John 6:63 *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. 64* ***"But there are some of you who do not believe."*** (At this time, there were *more* than the 12 disciples following

after Jesus) *For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were* ***who did not believe****, and who it was that would betray Him...* [71] *Now He meant* ***Judas the son of Simon Iscariot****, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.*

NOW: Let's look at our text again and see why this should NOT apply to you
Here is WHY you should "mark" in your Bibles and WATCH personal pronouns, so you always know the audience that is being spoken two...

IN THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT DO YOU REMEMBER THE AUDIENCE?

A. The Disciples and Large Crowds who were following Jesus teaching
B. THE HYPOCRITES Jesus constantly referred to would be the most likely false prophets He was referring to. (The Pharisees, Scribes, Priests and religious leaders of His day competing with Jesus)
C. **WHO, would Jesus be warning to *"Beware of False prophets?"*** The most likely would be the sheep (crowds) following "after" Jesus (YOU)

Matt. 7:15 *"Beware of the* ***false prophets****, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.* [16] *"You will know* ***them*** *by* ***their*** *fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?* [17] *"So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.* [18] *"A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.* [19] *"Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire* ("Good Fruit" does NOT come from yourself, UNLESS the ***Holy Spirit*** dwells within you). [20] *"So then, you will know* ***them*** *by their fruits.* [21] *"****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 will enter.* [22] *"****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?*** [23] ***"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, You who practice lawlessness.'***

Do We Have Evidence of *other* Non Believing Jewish religious leaders doing any of this, like trying to cast our demons in "Jesus Name"?.....YUP ☺

Acts 19:11 *God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul,*
12 so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick,
and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out. 13 ***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." 14 ***Seven sons of one Sceva****,* ***a Jewish chief priest, were doing this****. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I*
recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" 16 And the man, in
whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and
overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17
This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and
fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified. 18
Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing
their practices. 19 And many of those who practiced magic brought their books
together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted
up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word
of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.

POINT 1. WATCH THIS: JESUS IS LOOKING FOR "Fruit, NOT Performance"
IF YOU ARE WALKING DOWN THE WIDE ROAD AND DON'T WANT TO FACE THE WRATH OF GOD FOR YOUR UNBELIEF...ALL YOU HAVE TO DO TO FIND THE "NARROW" ROAD IS "ASK" JESUS, "SEEK" JESUS AND "KNOCK" ON THE "NARROW GATE" ☺

> **John 10:9** *"**I am the door**; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.*

1. It is the GATE of the Narrow Road where forgiveness of sin is found
2. It is the GATE of the Narrow Road where BAD fruit is transformed into a tree that produces GOOD fruit
3. It is the GATE of the Narrow Road where we find the LOVE of God, through His Son Jesus Christ, who gives us eternal life as a free gift
4. It is the GATE of the Narrow Road where we find intimacy with God

5. It is the GATE of the Narrow Road where we find MORE OF GOD AND LESS OF ME!
6. It is the GATE of the Narrow Road where we are given the Holy Spirit

POINT 2. FRUIT IS NOT SOMETHING WE "*WORK*" TO PRODUCE!!!!!!
Fruit is the bi-product of the HOLY SPIRIT who WORKS IN US!
Jesus has already taught us, Apart from me you can do NOTHING! ☺

Ever notice how hard fruit works???
Like an apple or a pear, or a cherry, just choose your fruit...**IT DOESN'T WORK!** AND that's my point fruit is the PRODUCT OF SOMEONE ELSE'S LABOR.....Fruit is what the Holy Spirit produces in believers and is something that shows the *quality* and life of one's faith.....***MORE OF GOD AND LESS OF ME! And it comes by REMEMBERING TO SURRENDER!***

The fruit of the Pharisee's was rotten, their own efforts to be righteous was worthless as it did NOT come from the Holy Spirit AND Jesus is calling them out for their PRIDE, *Self* Sufficentcy and LACK OF FAITH in Him as He WARNED BELIEVERS of the dangers of false teachers who can lead others astray!!!

The FALSE PROPHETS were going through the WIDE GATE and taking as many people with them they could gather!!!

"Will of the Father"-What is it?

*21 "**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 will enter.*

1. To have a personal intimate relationship with our heavenly Father which can only happen by accepting Jesus as your Savior and Lord,
2. To Knock on the NARROW gate (Jesus) and the door will be opened
3. As Jesus stated, "Blessed are the poor in spirit"
4. To receive the HOLY SPIRIT as a seal from God Luke 11:13 (Good Gift)

JOHN in the Book of John simplifies the will of the Father in TWO VERSES....
John 6:39-40 *"**This is the will of Him who sent Me**, that of all that He has given Me **I lose nothing**, but raise it up on the last day. "For this is **the will of My Father**, that everyone who **beholds the Son** and **believes in Him will have eternal life**, and **I Myself will raise him up on the last day**."*

Jesus ends the Sermon on the Mount with warnings. Not warnings about atheists… but about religious deception for Christ Followers.

1. False prophets **do not look dangerous**, they often look spiritual.

The Pharisees looked like: Bible experts, Prayer leaders, Moral examples and even respected teachers...But Jesus says they were **wolves dressed in sheep's clothing**.

The most dangerous deception in the church today is **religion without relationship and this leads to a long list of denominations and cults that focus on religion instead of Jesus...and lead masses of people astray down a wide road...**

Why is this SO important?

Because religion can be comfortable and make you "Feel" spiritual, BUT religion DOES NOT SAVE ANYONE!

False prophets today rarely deny the Bible outright, But they can become masters at *distorting* the Word of God while appearing faithful:

If they don't keep you from salvation in Christ they can sure confuse you and even stunt your spiritual growth with confusion!

Examples:

- Preaching God's blessing *without* holiness or obedience to Jesus
- Preaching Christianity without the cross *(Or cross without resurrection)*
- Preaching grace without obedience

They sound spiritual, but their message often is "*ear tickling" that* **never confronts sin or calls for true transformation where we GROW IN OUR FAITH**.

A message that **never wounds the conscience cannot heal the soul**.

2. False Teachers rely on themselves and NOT the Holy Spirit.....
a FALSE TEACHER can be charismatic, popular, and have a huge on-line platform... BUT THE REAL TEST IS "FRUIT" WHICH WHEN EXAMINED MEANS A PURE HEART THAT DOES EVERYTHING FOR **GOD'S GLORY**, NOT ONE'S OWN GLORY THAT FEEDS EGO...and this MOST OFTEN needs to be observed over time where character is exposed and SOUND THEOLOGY is taught consistently

2. Modern Day False Prophets can be spotted if you *test their teaching*...
BEWARE of ANY TEACHER OR CHURCH that teaches ANYTHING that attacks the CHARACTER of God! God is Holy! God is True! God is a God of ORDER, NOT chaos, God can be trusted! God is faithful! God NEVER lies and God NEVER breaks His promises *to name a few*!!!!!

NOW RUN ANY teaching through the Character of God, by "THAT" FILTER and you can spot False Teaching a mile away!

Sadly, there are MANY FALSE teachings today that are becoming popular...

1. Growing Infatuation with NEW teaching that no one has heard before
2. Replacement Theology where Jews have no place in God's Future Plan
3. BAPTISIMAL Regeneration...That Baptism saves you...NOT Faith in Jesus as the *ONLY* thing that saves you...NOT works of Obedience...*But do NOT sell short the importance of Baptism as your desire to be obedient to Jesus SHOULD make known the Work of the Holy Spirit OVER TIME!*
4. **You can loose your salvation OR you can give it back to God if you walk away from God.** Now it's possible a person was never saved who walks away from God and if they are saved and walk away from God, I wouldn't want to be in their shoes ***(God's discipline will follow)***
5. **NOW WATCH THIS: IF SOMEONE TEACHES YOU COULD LOOSE YOUR SALVATION OR GIVE YOUR SALVATION BACK TO GOD...YOU MAKE GOD OUT TO BE A LIAR AND THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE....**
   A. No place in the Bible where God UNSAVES ANYONE
   B. No place in the Bible where God ABORTS one of His Children
   C. No place in the Bible where God UN-justifies ANYONE (It's 100% God)
   D. No place in the Bible where God Unseals anyone or removes the H/S

E. No place in the Bible where God erases a believer's name from the Lamb's Book of Life ("Litotes" in Book of Revelation 3:5 to Sardis)
F. No place in the Bible where God EVER contradicts Himself
G. No place in the Bible where God goes back on His Word or promises!
H. No place in the Bible where God LIES about "*ETERNAL* LIFE" *and that Jesus will NOT do the will of the Father* by raising up believers into NEW Glorified bodies at the LAST DAY!

"On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord…'" (v.22)

This is one of the most sobering statements Jesus ever made to False Prophets

Notice the word **"many."** Not a few.

Many religious people will stand before Christ convinced they belong to Him.

They list their religious resume:

• prophecy • casting out demons • miracles...They did **ministry**.

Yet Jesus says: "I never knew you."...**NO FAITH**, NO PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

You *can* serve Christ publicly and **never belong to Him personally**.

Judas preached sermons, did miracles and cast out demons.

But Judas never knew Jesus, and he never had Jesus!

Any Doubt? Assurance if from God's Word: 1 JOHN 5:13-The NARROW Gate!

Closing Illustration

Two trees can look identical in winter.
Both are bare.
Both appear alive.
But when spring comes, one produces fruit and the other remains barren.
Time reveals the difference. Fruit trees LIVE...Dead trees are cut down....
Jesus says **the same is true of faith**.
Eventually fruit appears… or the absence of fruit reveals the truth