

Mt.7.21-23 “Vanity & Deceit”
Matthew Series: ‘THE KING IS COMING’ #103
November 22, 2020

Jesus said that few enter the narrow gate of salvation because:

- 1st - it must be **found** (v.14).
- 2nd - it is narrow & demanding is the **opposite** of the way of the world.
- 3rd - it requires going through **alone** & without baggage.
- 4th - it requires **penitence** & **brokenness** of heart (Lk.13.24).
- 5th - **false** prophets deceive people by luring them into the way that leads to destruction (vv.15–20).
- 6th - Jesus gives a final reason why so few enter the narrow gate of salvation: **self-deception**.

The two categories of self-deception are those:

- ❖ of mere **verbal profession** &
- ❖ of mere **intellectual knowledge**.

The 1st described in vv.21–23, involves those who **say** but do not do;

The 2nd described in verses 24–27, involves those who **hear** but do not do.

What lulls people into such deception?

First, many professing as well as true Christians—hold a false doctrine of **assurance**.

God’s own Holy Spirit will witness His **reality** to those who truly belong to Him (Ro.8.14–16).

Calling & choosing are made secure by increasing qualities of **fruitfulness**.

Second, contributor to self-deception is failure of **self-examination**.

A person who is not concerned about having his present sins **cleansed** ...

- has good reason to doubt that his past sin has been **forgiven**.

A person who has no desire to come to the Lord for continued **cleansing** ...

- has **reason** to doubt that he ever came to the Lord to receive salvation.

When a person habitually practices any sin without remorse or **repentance**,...

Third cause of self-deception is inordinate concentration on **religious** activity.

Fourth cause of self-deception is what may be called the fair **exchange** approach.

- apart from God it is **impossible** to do anything that is truly good, (Ro.3.12; Ps.14.1-3; 53.1-3).
- it is the **sin** itself—that separates us from God & brings death & damnation (Ro.5:12; 6:23).

Good does not cancel the **consequences** of sin.

(1) **One** is the **superficial** person.

(2) The other person is **knowledgeable** about the Bible & the Gospel & is involved in Church.

There are many **ways** people are deceived.

✚ Those in the first group make mere **verbal profession** of faith & works.

✚ Those in the second have mere **intellectual knowledge** of the Gospel they hear.

- ✓ Those in the first group **say** but do not do;
- ✓ those in the second **hear** but do not do.

The most important objective is not to identify
all the many deceitful ways
but to: **find & follow the one true way.**