

# FIRM FOUNDATIONS

## Study #13 (Updated 7-12-21)

### Read Matt. 7:13-20 (NIV)

*“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

*<sup>15</sup> “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. <sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.*

### Q: Jesus’ gate is narrow. What does that mean for you?

- It probably means you won’t be able take much with you through that gate.
- There are lots of things you will probably have to leave behind to go where Jesus leads.

### Q: Who are the “False Prophets Jesus warns us about?

- They are the people who try to point people to a wider, easier gate to get through than one Jesus opened for us.
- Jesus makes it clear **there will be people** pointing you to a different gate than the one He is pointing to (see also [Luke 13:24-25](#) and [John 10:7-10](#)).

### Q: How can you know who is a “false prophet”?

- By their fruit! ([vs. 16-20](#))

### Q: What is the “fruit” of the false prophets? (Check out [Matt. 12:33-37](#))

- The words a false prophet uses is their “fruit.”
- That means you can identify a false prophet by what they say!
  - False prophets are the ones who tell you Jesus’ gate is wider than it really is.
  - False prophets will tell you can go through Jesus’ gate and still hold on to some of things you don’t want to let go of.

## What About You?

### Q: Have you ever encountered a “false prophet”?

- If yes, did you recognize them by Jesus’ description or did they deceive you?
- What did they tell you?

### Q: Have you ever been a false prophet?