

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. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

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