

Seven Spiritual Observations from

Matthew 7:13-14

INTRODUCTION:

1. This is a very popular verse, and is often quoted!
2. Like so many of the verses in the Bible, it is packed with numerous lessons!
3. We want to consider seven spiritual observations contained in this passage.
4. These are simple, but important, observations that may help us walk more carefully, deliberately and watchfully.

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A. Sermon on the Mount: **Matthew 5:1 – 7:29**

1. Jesus is in Galilee
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B. Jesus is teaching a New Law!

1. His teaching is very different
2. “You have heard...but I say to you” (6x), 17x Jesus uses “I”
3. He is teaching with Authority! Mt 7:28-29

C. The entire sermon is centered on Spiritual living, applied Christianity!

II. Our text...

A. Matthew 7:13-14

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B. An illustration that all could visualize involving streets and gates/doors!

1. Jewish Streets...

- Private streets/ways were 4 cubits (~6')
- Public streets/ways were 16 cubits (~24')

2. City Gates....

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#1. Everyone is on a Way!

1. We are going to enter a gate and follow a path
 - a. No... "Maybe" or "If" about it!
 - b. No... "I am not going to participate" **Mt 25:14ff**

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- b. Many seem to have no idea...what gate/path!!??

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2. For most of us, **we are already on a path.**
 - a. Do we realize this, and do we act like we know this!
 - b. Many seem to have no idea...what gate/path!!??
3. We **must** be aware and pay attention to our Lives!
Eph 5:15, 1 Peter 5:8, Rom 13:11ff

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2. Many advocate/promote there are multiple ways!!

- a. Multiple secular paths...materialism, humanism, atheism
- b. Multiple religious paths...variety of religions & denominations
- c. NOT SO: **Mt 6:19ff, John 14:6, 12:48, Eph 4:1ff,**

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3. We must know what the Right Way looks like!

Study – **2 Tim 2:15**, Grow – **2 Peter 3:18**

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#3. We Choose the Way!

1. We are told to choose the narrow way, **but it is our choice!**
 - a. Our responsibility to decide...our spiritual life is in our hands!
 - b. It has always been this way **Deut 30:19, Joshua 24:15**
 - c. Destroys Calvinism: Unconditional election, Dir Op of HS

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2. Choice demands engagement
 - a. Spiritually evaluating and assessing our surroundings
 - b. Again, are we walking carefully? **1 Peter 5:8**
3. We **must** make the right Choice(s)... daily! **Luke 9:23!**

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#4. When God Says “a few”, He means It!

- 1. Many do not really believe this or fully comprehend this!**
 - a. Few means: a small number, hardly any, not many, only some
 - b. Notice...God understands “a few”

How many is “Few”???

God's Judgment	Total	Few...
Flood - Gen 6-9	~ 250 Million to 3 Billion	8 people!
Sodom & Gomorrah - Gen 19	~ Several Thousand	3 people!
Israel in the Wilderness - Num 14	~1.5 to 3 Million	2 over 21!
Jericho - Joshua 6	~ tens of thousands	1 Family!
Elijah's Day - 1 Kings 19:18	~ Several Million	7000 faithful!
Nation of Israel - 2 Kings 17	~ Several Million	~None!
Nation of Judah - 2 Kings 25	~ Few Million	~ 50k!

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- b. Are we prepared for this?! Courage, abuse, loneliness....

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3. We must be careful not to run with the crowd!!

Romans 12:1-3, 8:29

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#5. Gates Determine Paths!

1. Each path is preceded by an gate of similar character!
 - A path is started at the Gate!
2. We often have gates or doors of opportunity, or decisions
 - a. Each one has indicators and consequences – decisions are key!!
 - b. How carefully do we evaluate our opportunities; Are we paying attention to what gates or doors we are walking through??
 - c. **Romans 12:9, 1 Thess 5:21-22**

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3. We **must** make sound, spiritual decisions! **Matt 7:24ff**

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#6. The Different Paths Require Different Effort!

1. The Wide Destructive Gate & Way

- a. Easy – Wide and lots of people.
- b. One can get down this path by just following the “current”.

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2. The Narrow Way takes Work!

- a. Must Strive for the Gate (**Luke 13:23-24**), must work with difficulty to stay on the way! **1 Cor 9:24ff**
- b. This way takes intense dedication & self-control - **1 Cor 15:58**

3. We must be willing to put forth Effort!!

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#7. Our Path Points to our Destination!!

1. Each Path has a destination!

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- b. Narrow, difficult path to...Eternal Life

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- a. Which attributes most represent the path we are on?
- b. Are we going to be happy with our destination

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3. We MUST GET ON and STAY on the Right Way!

CONCLUSION:

1. **Matthew 7:13-14** is a wonderful passage that provides a simple illustration to help us visualize a righteous manner of life!
2. In order for us to get to our heavenly destination,
 - We must pay attention to our lives!
 - We must know what right looks like!
 - We must make right Choice(s)!
 - We must not follow the crowd!
 - We must make sound spiritual decisions!
 - We must be willing to put forth Effort!!
 - We must stay on the Right Way!
3. Let's make sure walk carefully, deliberately and watchfully.