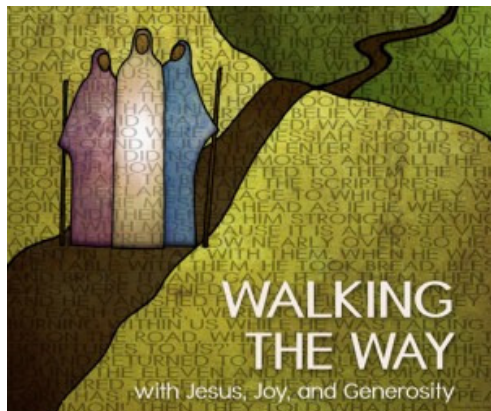


Lessons for Life



Week 10



These weekly studies are loosely based on the previous Sunday's sermon. If you missed it, you will find a recording on our website (www.knaphillbaptist.org.uk). They are designed for both Home Group discussion and/or personal reflection. Don't necessarily try to cover all the questions and discussion topics in your group at one sitting. You may like to think about them later in your own time.

Read Matthew 7:13-23

This is the tenth (and penultimate) study in our series based on the Sermon on the Mount, (Matthew 5-7) entitled *Lessons for Life*. These chapters contain various sayings of Jesus that together form a coherent body of teaching. If we are to be true and authentic followers of Jesus we need to model our lives on what Jesus says here and allow it to shape, inform and define our identity. Jesus places a choice before us that resounds throughout Scripture. Which way will we go? Our way or God's way? Jesus makes the choice clear and plain; either we choose the easy path to destruction or the more challenging path that leads to life.

Questions and pointers for discussion/reflection

1. Read Psalm 1. Reflect on 'the way of sinners' and 'the way of the righteous.' Think about the two ways and the choice of which one to follow we all have to make. See Deuteronomy 30:19, Joshua 24:14,15.
2. What are the two gates and road which Jesus speaks of in Matthew 7:13,14? What does he imply about the number of people to be found on each road? Where does the narrow gate/road lead to, and where the broad road and wide gate? What do the metaphors imply spiritually?
3. Jesus spoke about hell more than anything else! See Matthew 5:22, 29,30; 10:28; 18:7-9; 23:33; Luke 12:4-5. What are the various views about hell? What do you think about it? Read Luke 16:19-31 and discuss.
4. Should the metaphors of the narrow and broad roads just be applied to salvation or also to discipleship? See Matthew 10:38,39; Luke 9:23; Galatians 2:20. What does carrying our cross mean? In what ways does Jesus call us to 'deny ourselves'? Do you find this hard? How are we 'crucified with Christ'?
5. In what way is the way to life narrow? See John 14:6, Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5; Matthew 1:21.
6. The narrow way leads to life through Jesus. He is the gate (John 10:7,9). It is through Jesus that we gain access by faith into God's grace (Romans 5:2); our access to the Father is by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:18); we can approach God with freedom and confidence (Ephesians 3:12). Jesus is our new and living way back to God (Hebrews 10:19,20). He is an ever open door that no-one can shut for all who would come to God through him (Revelation 3:8).
7. In verse 21, Jesus clearly states that it is not enough just to call ourselves Christians. This has to be made apparent by a godly life (verses 15-20). Compare Titus 1:16 and 1 John 2:6. What does it mean to walk as Jesus walked? What does it mean for us? Make a list from Psalm 1:1-3; Romans 6:4; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 4:1, Ephesians 5:2, 15; 1 John 1:7; 2 John 4.

According to Jesus in verses 21-23, who will enter the Kingdom of Heaven? What sort of people does Jesus have in mind in verse 22? Who does Jesus regard as a true disciple? Are you a true disciple by this standard? Reflect on verse 20 in your own life.