

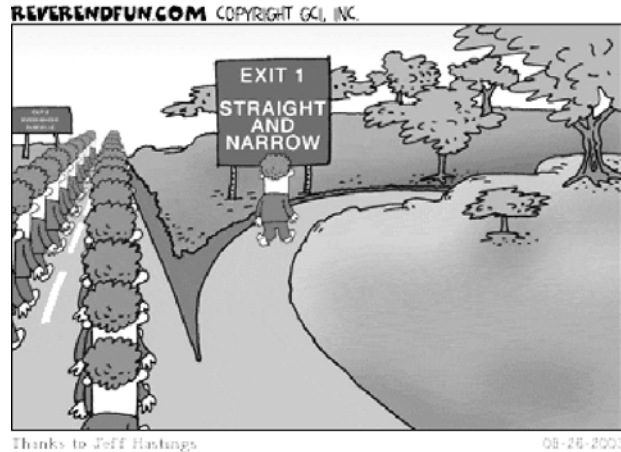
The Great Divide

Walking through a mine field

Matthew 7:13-14 (p. 1506)

If the road is narrow and “only a few find it,” how can we be sure to stay on this road?

“The path of discipleship is narrow, and it is fatally easy to miss one’s way and stray from the path, even after years of discipleship. And it is hard to find. On either side of the narrow path deep chasms yawn. To be called to a life of extraordinary quality, to live up to it, and yet to be unconscious of it is indeed a narrow way. – *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*



How do these verses relate to everything that came before it in the Sermon?

Good fruit/bad fruit

Matthew 7:15-20 (p. 1506)

How is this to be taken in light of last time’s discussion on judging?

How are we to tell the difference between true and false prophets?

What type of fruit is being discussed here?

“False prophets will rise up among them... There is someone standing by my side, who looks just like a member of the Church. He is a prophet and a preacher. He looks like a Christian, he talks and acts like one. But dark powers are mysteriously at work; it was these who sent him into our midst... He conceals his dark purpose beneath the cloak of Christian piety, hoping that his innocuous disguise will avert detection. He knows that Christians are forbidden to judge, and he will remind them of it at the appropriate time.” – *Bonhoeffer*

Knowing this, how can we keep the Church from splintering?

In the end, what happens to a tree that produces “bad fruit?”

More than words

Matthew 7:21-23

What does this passage mean for us?

1 Corinthians 12:3 (p. 1785)

Is there a magic word or prayer to ensure entry into heaven? If not, then how?

“We can never appeal to our confession [of faith] or be saved simply on the ground that we have made it. Neither is the fact that we are members of a Church which has a right confession a claim to God’s favour. To think thus is to fall into the sin of Israel, which thought the grace of God’s call gave it a special privilege in his sight.” – *Bonhoeffer*

“The righteousness that surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees consists not in possessing the teachings of Jesus but in acting upon them.” – *Douglas Hare*

What if Hitler (or fill in the blank with another horrible person) made a last-minute confession of faith in Jesus? Could he/she be in heaven?

The Solid Rock

Matthew 7:24-27

What point is Jesus making here? Is it real estate advice?

v. 26 “But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice...” What about those who have not heard these words?

“Jesus has spoken: his is the word, ours the obedience. Only in the doing of it does the word of Jesus retain its honour, might and power among us. Now the storm can rage over the house, but it cannot shatter that union with him, which his word has created.” – *Bonhoeffer*

Matthew 7:28-29

What has amazed you about the Sermon on the Mount?