

#awkward

Group Study, Week Five

Are You Really IN?

CATCHING UP

Welcome any new members. Go around the group and answer the question, *how has your week been going?* And *what did you take away from the last lesson, and how has it made a difference in your life this week?*

DIVING IN

In the weekend message, we looked at Matthew 7:21-23. Read those as a group and be reminded of these observations:

- For Jesus, it's not about knowing the right jargon.
- It's also not about having the right emotional experiences.
- And it's not about doing the right works.
- It's ultimately about knowing HIM personally.

This passage follows two other rather awkward passages as well. Read Matthew 7:13-14 and then answer these questions...

- Based on what we have already said about the necessity for having a personal relationship with Him to go to heaven and be His disciple, why do you think so many people will still walk the broad pathway that leads to destruction?
- Why is it "narrow" to say that a personal relationship with Jesus is the one and only way to eternal life?

Also read Matthew 7:15-20 and offer this observation... We sometimes think of false prophets as those who are *wrong* about something, or who simply *disagree* with us about a particular topic. But "false prophets" are really those who seek to lead people to base their life on a lie that prevents them from the true way to eternal life – a personal relationship with Jesus.

- Talk about some of the possible *false* prophecies that exist today. What are the "plans of salvation" that don't really lead to eternal life but instead keep people from really trusting in Jesus alone?

While Jesus said that we would "know them by their fruits," He wasn't talking about identifying true believers from false believers but rather true *teachers* from false ones.

- What are the "fruits" that might warn us that someone is a false prophet and that what they teach might prevent us from discovering eternal life in Jesus?
- Is it healthy or unhealthy to get wrapped up in "inspecting the fruit" of other believers who aren't false prophets at all? In other words, why might it be dangerous to focus on someone's outward behavior or appearance and issue a judgment about their heart?

Jesus did make the plan of salvation **hard** but He did make it **clear**. And in making it clear that a relationship with Jesus is the one prerequisite to enjoying eternal life, He clarified that those who try to enter into eternal life some other way would miss heaven.

- Is there anything about becoming a follower of Jesus that you've misunderstood that needs correcting?

SERVING TOGETHER

Talk about how your group might be able to serve together, within the church or within the community once or twice during this study.

STAYING ON MISSION

It's very important for every group to remember our big mission of reaching people who are far from God and bringing them closer to knowing Jesus. **Who do you know that you could invite to the group?**

PRAISE AND PRAYER

What prayer requests are there within the group? What is there to praise God and be thankful for? Are there any stories of how God has been at work in someone's life? One person can lead in prayer or multiple people can lead, but no one should feel pressured to do so.