



This summer, we've been walking through the Sermon on the Mount in a series called "Best Sermon Ever." This was a sermon given by Jesus, and today, we get to the end of his sermon. Today's passage is a great reminder for us as believers to live in such a way that every single part of who we are is affected by our faith, including how we treat other people. Throughout life, you'll experience two ways to live. You can be happy or unhappy. You can be grateful or ungrateful. You can be healthy or unhealthy. Today, Jesus goes beyond all those things and describes two ways you can live your life through various pictures. These two ways to live all have eternal consequences.

**Key Passage:** Matthew 7:12-27

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How does the Golden Rule impact our daily interactions with others, and what might be the broader effects if it were universally practiced? What keeps us from being guided by the Golden Rule?
2. How do the narrow and wide gates illustrate different approaches to life? What are the eternal consequences associated with each path? Give some examples of narrow and wide gate choices.
3. What challenges do we face when choosing the narrow gate? How can faith help overcome these challenges?
4. What characteristics distinguish false prophets, and how can these traits disrupt a church or faith community?
5. How does Jesus' teaching about appearing religious versus truly knowing God challenge common perceptions of religious activity and authentic faith?
6. What steps can one take to move from merely appearing religious to truly knowing God, as discussed in Matthew 7:21-23?
7. How does the metaphor of building a house on the rock versus the sand illustrate the importance of a strong faith foundation? What are the practical applications of this teaching?
8. What about this lesson challenged you the most? What was your biggest takeaway?