

Weekly Study Guide

The Week of November 17, 2014

Daily Readings

Monday	Matthew 7:13-14	Tuesday	Matthew 9:9-13	Wednesday	Matthew 7:15-23
Thursday	2 Timothy 4:1-5	Friday	Galatians 5:22-25	Saturday	Matthew 7:24-29

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *The Sermon on the Mount*

Next week's readings: Matthew 5:1-7:29

In our series *The Good Life*, we've walked step by the step through the most hopeful and powerful vision for human life ever offered. In the last week of the series, we have the opportunity to hear the very words of Jesus reviewed and spoken directly to us.



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Group Discussion

Connect	Have you ever seen a house or large building built from the ground up? Do you have any experience with good or bad foundations?
Learn	<p>Read Matthew 7:13-14.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What's your first reaction to this passage? Do you find it inspiring? intimidating? disturbing?• Think about how Jesus treated sinful people. Consider Matthew 9:9-13 as one example. What do you think this tell us about what Jesus meant by the "narrow" way? What does it tell us that Jesus <i>didn't mean</i>?• How do you think that you (or people in general) might need this warning today? <p>Read Matthew 7:15-23.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus says "Watch out for false prophets in sheep's clothing." How might this warning build on the verses that came right before it? Consider 2 Timothy 4:3 for one idea.• Verses 16-18 say that you can tell a false or true prophet/teacher "by their fruit." What kind of thing do you think Jesus meant by this?• Verse 22 seems to say that spiritually miraculous powers don't qualify as the kind of fruit Jesus was talking about. Read Galatians 5:22-23 for a description of the fruit of the Spirit. <p>Read Matthew 7:24-29.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus says that we should hear and do "these words of mine." What words do you think he means?• Instead of putting Jesus' words into practice, what might we do with them instead?• All of these closing images (narrow way, false prophets, house on the rock) as well as the summary in v. 29 are meant to call for single-minded allegiance to Jesus and his way. What competes with Jesus for our allegiance today?
Apply	These verses today are challenging warnings. What particular challenge do you hear in these passages? As you build your house on the rock, what particular next steps do you think God wants you to take?
Pray	There is a wide road that attracts many and leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13). Pray today for those who have not yet discovered the joy of Jesus' way, that they too would find the good life in him.