



Re-Forming Our Discernment (Matthew 7:13-23)

Re-Formed: Sermon on the Mount pt. 12

Pastor Tim Peck

THE BIG IDEA

God re-forms our discernment to discern the right road, trustworthy spiritual leaders, and true discipleship. We discern the right road when we trust and follow Jesus, we find trustworthy spiritual leaders by trusting leaders who are growing in their own discipleship, and we discern true discipleship by building obedience into our relationship with Jesus.

OPENING

- If you grew up going to church, what kind of church was it? What made that church unique?
- If you didn't grow up going to church, what's one thing that's confusing about your current church experience?

DIGGING DEEPER

- The idea of two roads is a common one in the Old Testament. Read Psalm 1 and Deuteronomy 30:15-20. How are the two paths in these passages similar to what Jesus says in Matthew 7:13-14?
- Pastor Tim suggests that the people in the crowds (see Matthew 7:29) represent people on the broad road and Jesus' disciples (see Matthew 5:1) represent people on the narrow road. How does this shed light on what Jesus says about the two roads?
- According to Matthew 7:15, why are untrustworthy spiritual leaders so hard to identify? What should we look for to discern untrustworthy spiritual leaders according to v. 20?
- How can we discern untrustworthy spiritual leaders without becoming judgmental (see Matthew 7:1-6)?



- What day is Jesus talking about in Matthew 7:22? What distinguishes true from false disciples here?

PUTTING IT TO WORK

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer says, “Cheap grace is preaching forgiveness without repentance...Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross.”¹ Where do you see cheap grace in the Christian community today? Where do you see it in your own life?
- Talk to someone this week who goes to a different church (preferably one that’s very different than Glenkirk). Ask them about their relationship with Jesus, their leadership at their church, and how they approach discipleship. What do you learn from this conversation?

PRAYER REQUESTS

¹Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Dietrich Bonhoeffer Complete Works* 16 Volumes (Augsburg Fortress Press), Vol.4, p. 44.