

NOVEMBER 26, 2023 CHOOSE THE KINGDOM MATTHEW 7:13-29

Introduction

BIG IDEA: The Kingdom of God leads to life, everything else leads to death- and you have to choose which way you'll go.

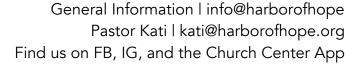
- 1. The Kingdom of God leads to life
 - a. It will be hard
 - b. It requires doing God's Will

2. Everything else leads to death

3. You have to choose

A disciple of Jesus is someone who is **following** Jesus, is being **changed** by Jesus, and is **committed** to the **mission** of Jesus. (Matthew 4:19)





Reflection Questions for Groups or Individuals:

- 1. Kati talked about her experience walking in the woods and being turned back by a clear sign of danger ahead. Have you ever encountered a really clear and helpful warning sign?
- 2. We said today that God's way, though it ends up in beautiful life, is sometimes hard. How have you experienced the reality of this?
- 3. If you're in a journey group, how well do you do at encouraging each other to do what God's word says instead of just learning about it? Talk about how you might encourage each other to apply God's word to your lives more intentionally.
- 4. We said that Jesus was talking to people who believed in God while warning them of the broad way that leads to death. How have you been tempted toward something that might LOOK like the right path, but is actually not God's way?
- 5. We've said that disciple is someone who is **following** Jesus, is being **changed** by Jesus, and is **committed to the mission** of Jesus. As you consider the choice Jesus lays out in his teaching about living according to God's Kingdom- is there a choice you sense God asking you to make? Is there a part of being a disciple that you haven't yet surrendered to? Is there a recommitment you can make? How can you choose God's Kingdom today?

Discovery Bible Study Method for Groups or Individuals

(for more information on this method of Bible study- see https://www.dbsquide.org/)

- **1. Talk:** To begin the study, each person answers these questions:
 - What are you thankful for?
 - What is causing you stress?
 - Who needs our help? How can this group help them?

2. Look Back (session 2+)

- Retell story from the previous meeting.
- What did you do differently because of this story?
- Who did you tell and what was the reaction?

3. Read & Re-tell

- One person reads the Bible passage out loud, and the rest follow along.
- Someone else retells the passage by memory, if possible. Others can fill in what is missing.

4. Look

- Read the passage again.
- Discuss what this passage says about God, Jesus or his plan.

5. Look again

- Read the passage once more
- Discuss what this passage says about humans
- Discuss what this passage says about being a disciple of Jesus

6. Inside me

- According to this study, what am I doing well?
- What do I need to change?

7. Who else?

- Who needs to hear this story?
- How can I tell them?
- Who can I invite to study the Bible?

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