



**Digging Deep 2019-2020 Men's Bible Study Guide**  
**By Ben Giselbach and Caleb Colley**

Quarter Four (June through August)

- June: Matthew 7:13-14 (Few will be saved)
- July: Matthew 7:15-23 (Trees and fruit)
- August: Matthew 7:24-28 (The wise man and the foolish man)

## **Instructions for using this material:**

1. The Digging Deep study material is designed to facilitate in-depth group Bible study, and not to merely dispense information from “teacher” to “student.” As you go through the study, you will want to have separate paper or a computer on which to record your thoughts. (We do not leave space in this document for your answers to discussion-oriented questions.)
2. There are many tools that will help in digging, such as Bible encyclopedias, Greek and Hebrew lexical books, commentaries, etc. Many are available for free on-line. If you need help accessing such materials, ask others in your group or ask Ben or Caleb.
3. The Facebook group is an interactive portion of the study. Find it at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1564776240335067/> (or search “Digging Deep Men’s Bible Study” on Facebook). If you don’t have Facebook, you can still contribute to the discussion by emailing your comments to [calebcolley@gmail.com](mailto:calebcolley@gmail.com) or [ben@plainsimplefaith.com](mailto:ben@plainsimplefaith.com).
4. As we go through the study together, please provide questions and comments to the nationwide study group on Facebook. It will be great to have an ongoing discussion about the material.
5. A monthly video podcast will be posted on the Facebook page.
6. Glenn Colley will assist us by preaching a sermon each month on the topic for that month’s Digging Deep study. The sermons will be posted on the Facebook page and at [calebcolley.com/diggingdeep](http://calebcolley.com/diggingdeep).

## Month Ten: Few will be saved (Matthew 7:13-14)

### Introduction.

- A. Begin this study by re-reading Matthew 7.
- B. Beginning in 7:13, Matthew provides a series of contrasts between one side and another. This would be especially appropriate as Jesus appeals to people to leave a sinful lifestyle and become part of the coming kingdom of God. Note these contrasts here:
1. Matthew 7:13-14. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Matthew 7:15-20. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Matthew 7:21-23. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Matthew 7:24-27. \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Matthew 7:28-29. \_\_\_\_\_

### I. There are but two gates, and only one that leads to life.

- A. There is no category of people who will be “not good enough to go to heaven, but not bad enough to go to hell.” The Bible provides no such third option.
- B. Notice that the gate to life must be “found.” Jesus does not say that the broad way needs to be found or sought. It is not automatically obvious to a person what he must do in order to be saved. Make a list of the passages in Scripture where the question is asked about what one must do to be saved.
- C. Jesus’ statement speaks to the essentiality of hearing the gospel in order to be saved. We cannot overlook this step toward salvation. Will a person who never has heard the gospel be saved? Write a brief summary of what the following passages teach about hearing the gospel, and then use your thoughts to write a paragraph on the urgency of evangelism.
1. Romans 10:10-15
  2. Acts 4:5-12
  3. Acts 11:13-14
  4. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

D. It is possible for a gate to be closed, i.e., for some to enter and for others to be disallowed from entering.<sup>1</sup>

1. Compare our passage with Luke 13:23-28 and Matthew 25:1-21. What are these passages teaching about Judgment Day and what occurs afterward?
2. Use your concordance to search for the verb “enter” (and “entering”), and make a list of verses that discuss “entering” heaven (or “the kingdom of heaven,” etc.).

## II. There is a road to travel before entering each gate.

- A. In our text, the “ways” or “roads” lead to the gates. These obviously are not literally roads, but moral paths that represent choices and actions.
- B. List at least three passages of Scripture that portray salvation as the destination at the end of a difficult journey, and three passages that discuss being lost as the result of traveling on a bad path. (In some cases, the bad path may be described as easy or pleasurable. Make a note of these.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

- C. Reviewing these passages, assess the difficulty of living the Christian life. In what way is the Christian life easy, and in what way is it difficult? Is it easy or difficult to live *away* from God? If so, in what sense? In your answer, use Proverbs 3:1-4 and 13:15.

## III. We choose which gate to use.

- A. Entrance into the narrow gate is a choice, or Jesus would not have commanded people to choose it. This speaks against the Calvinistic doctrine that God already has determined, prior to creation, whether each individual will be saved or lost. In other words, determinism teaches that we have no choice about whether we will be saved or lost. Suppose someone said that God is sovereign and “in charge,” and so He has already made the choice about whether we will be lost or saved. How would you respond?

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<sup>1</sup> For certain thoughts in this section we are indebted to Tyler Temple, “Jesus and The Standard of Judgment,” Master’s Thesis, Freed-Hardeman University (2017).

1. To help with your answer, read the article here: <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1515-doctrine-of-determinism-what-is-it-the>.
  2. Having read this article, make a list of five passages in the New Testament that teach that people are saved after having made the authentic choice to be saved.
- B. Note that the Bible teaches that God has predestined who will be saved (Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:4-5). In what way has God decreed who will be saved?
1. To help with your answer, read the article here: <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/320-john-calvin-and-grace>.
  2. Is it possible for God to foreknow our choice about whether we will be saved without totally determining our choice?

#### **IV. More people will enter destruction than will enter life.**

- A. It is the great tragedy of human history that more will be saved than lost. Write briefly what the following passages teach about the proportion of the number of lost people to saved people:
1. Luke 13:23-28. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Matthew 22:14. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Matthew 7:21-23. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Matthew 10:16-22. \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Matthew 24:9-13. \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Luke 10:1-3. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. The Bible refers to the lost collectively as the “world,” whereas it often refers to the saved as “the chosen” or “the elect,” indicating a smaller proportion of the saved. Find some examples of this phraseology.

## Month Eleven: Trees and fruit (Matthew 7:15-23)

### Introduction.

A. Begin this study by reading Matthew 7:1-28.

### I. Beware of false prophets (Matthew 7:15-20).

- A. What is the emphasis of the Greek word translated “Beware”? Also, “False prophets” is translated from one Greek compound word. Use lexical tools to investigate the meanings of these words.
- B. What kind of fruit might we expect false teachers to exhibit? Find at least two other discussions of false prophets or false teachers in the New Testament, consider how these sinners are described, and write a statement about their attributes.
1. To help with your answer, read the article here: <https://plainsimplefaith.com/what-does-a-false-teacher-look-like/>.
  2. In your answer, address whether a person can have good intentions and still be a false teacher.
  3. In your answer, discuss how we might expect a false teacher to attack a faithful congregation in our contemporary context.
- C. Find at least three other passages in which the “sheep and wolves” metaphor is used in the New Testament. What do we learn about false teachers from each of these passages?
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Jesus uses the adjective “ravenous” to describe the wolves. When this word is used about people (instead of wolves), it refers to “swindlers,” “robbers,” or “extortioners.” What does Jesus’ use of this word demonstrate about the motivation of the false teachers? Use 1 Corinthians 5:11 and Romans 16:17 in your answer.
- E. Sometimes it is suggested that Mathew 7:15 conflicts with Matthew 7:1. Revisit the lesson on Matthew 7:1-6, and write a paragraph explaining how verse 15 harmonizes with verse 1.
- F. At the time when Jesus spoke the words of Matthew 7:21-23, what would have been the standard for determining whether someone was a false teacher? What is the standard for

us today? Find at least three verses that answer this question (not counting Matthew 7:24).

## II. Lost people among the religious (Matthew 7:21-23).

- A. Jesus refers to “that day” in verse 22. What day is under consideration? To answer this question, use verse 23, but also Matthew 10:15; 11:22; Acts 17:31; 2 Peter 3:10.
- B. Jesus says that even some who believe He is the Lord and who claim to be His followers will be lost. Consider the following questions:
  1. What does Jesus’ teaching here imply about the doctrine of salvation by faith alone?
  2. What does Jesus’ teaching here imply about Christendom today? Are we saved merely in virtue of the fact that we are devoted participants in Christendom?
  3. What is Jesus’ stated reason for rejecting the religious people? (Notice that it is not because they did some good things.)
- C. These lost people claimed to be performing miracles in the name of Jesus, and yet they were lost. How do we explain this? There seem to be these three possibilities:<sup>2</sup>
  1. They never really had performed miracles. (Jesus did not endorse the legitimacy of their claim.) Consider Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:9.
  2. They had performed true miracles as saved people (during the miraculous age), but subsequently had left the Lord. Find some passages that would support the idea that saved people performed real miracles and that they subsequently could be lost.
  3. They had performed true miracles as unsaved people, due to a special dispensation of God during the miraculous age. Consider Mark 9:38-41; Acts 19:11-20.
- D. Write an outline for a Bible class or sermon based on Matthew 7:21-23, in which you refute salvation by faith alone, using at least the following passages: 1 Samuel 15:22; Romans 6:17-18; James 2:14-25. Write the outline in such a way that you could adapt it easily into an evangelistic study.
  1. In your outline, address this possible objection: Suppose someone says we are saved by faith alone and not by any works of obedience, and cites Galatians 2:15-21 as evidence. How should we respond? What kind of works are under consideration in this passage? Paul is discussing works of what “law” in this text?

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<sup>2</sup> For this discussion we are indebted to Tyler Temple, “Jesus and The Standard of Judgment,” Master’s Thesis, Freed-Hardeman University (2017).

2. Finally, in your outline, address this question: Given that Matthew 7:21-23 refutes salvation by faith alone, does Matthew 7:21 teach that we are saved by our own merit, by earning salvation? What other New Testament passages have a bearing on this discussion?
- E. There are many religious people who sincerely think they are walking on the correct path to the correct gate, but are mistaken. How can one be sincerely wrong? Is God just or unjust in condemning those who are sincerely wrong? In your answer, give an Old Testament example of someone who was sincerely wrong, and at least two New Testament examples of someone who was sincerely wrong.

## Month Twelve: The wise man and foolish man (Matthew 7:24-28)

### Introduction: Review

A. As we begin this final month of study, re-read the Sermon on the Mount.

### I. The wise man (Matthew 7:24-25).

A. Consider Jesus' metaphors in this section:

1. A house is that in which a person lives. Given that Jesus is discussing a person's overall or general obedience, it seems that the house represents a person's moral life itself.
2. What is represented by the storm? The perils of rain, wind, and flood, come from every direction (above, around, beneath). Life's troubles may be in view, but also the house is totally tested (and preserved) or destroyed (wrecked), and so it would seem that the storms must include death itself. This also is indicated by the fact that Jesus uses identical language to refer to the storms afflicting both the wise man and the foolish man.
  - a) Death is the universal storm, the peril that comes to all. Find at least three Bible passages that teach the universality of death.
3. What is represented by the rock? As you think about this, use lexical tools to consider the meaning of the word translated "rock." Find at least five other passages that use "rock" to portray unchanging truth upon which we may rely (example: Deuteronomy 32:4). In Luke's account, the builder "dug deep" and his house was "well built" (Luke 6:48).

B. Do a brief study of wisdom in the New Testament, writing down just a sentence-long summary of what is taught about wisdom in the following passages. Compare what is taught in these passages with what Jesus teaches in Matthew 7:24-25.

1. 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16
2. Colossians 2:1-5
3. James 3:13-18

### II. The foolish man (Matthew 7:26-27).

A. There is an obvious difference in the preparation made by the wise man, as contrasted with the (lack of) preparation made by the foolish man. The foolish man did not take care to build a good foundation, and he failed to take seriously the storms. Matthew 7:24-27 is one of a number of Jesus' parables that address the theme of preparation. List as many as

you can find, and give a one-sentence summary of what each parable teaches about preparation.

- B. Observe that the foolish man's house may have looked perfectly good on the outside, but lacking a solid foundation, still failed to protect its inhabitants from the storm. Similarly, it is possible for people living today to have great material possessions (even physical houses with solid foundations), and yet be unprepared for the end of life. Find three Old Testament passages that discuss the folly of unpreparedness, and three New Testament passages.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

- C. Given that both houses looked like typical houses prior to the storm, it would have been impossible to tell the difference between their integrity prior to the storm. How does this fact apply to our own lives?

- D. Graduating high school seniors sometimes receive a distinction titled, "College and Job Prepared." Preparation for job and/or college is important, but it pales in comparison for spiritual preparation for a life of service in the Lord. Develop a devotional talk or Bible class on this theme that you could give at an upcoming youth event or Bible class.

- E. List three practical steps we can take to teach our children or grandchildren the discipline of preparation for everyday life.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion: The crowd's reaction to the sermon (Matthew 7:28).**

- A. Jesus was not merely giving suggestions about how to interpret the Law, but was teaching with authority about the Old Law, and was teaching His *own* Law authoritatively. Reflect on the Sermon on the Mount. Make a list of those doctrines that are re-statements of Old Testament doctrines, and those that are Christ's original doctrines.

- B. Make a list of reasons why you personally have been amazed at Jesus' teaching during this year of study.