



“Lord, Lord”

Sermon for Agape Fellowship
May 23, 2021 Paul D. Leichty

The Spirit poured on Jesus

And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the **heavens were opened** to him and he saw the **Spirit of God descending like a dove** and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:16–17 (NRSV)

Pentecost

- The story in Acts 2
- The promise in Acts 1
 - The power...
 - ...of the Holy Spirit



⁸ But you will receive **power** when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 (NRSV)

Power for the Kingdom



- Temptations – Matthew 4:1-11
 - Economic power – stone into bread
 - Celebrity power – jump from temple
 - Political power – worship
- The message = kingdom of heaven
- Call to action = Repent (turn around)

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the **kingdom of heaven** has come near.” Matthew 4:17 (NRSV)

Proclaiming the Kingdom



- Calling disciples – Matthew 4:18-22
- Demonstrating the message – v. 23
- Fame spread – v. 24-25

²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the **good news of the kingdom** and **curing every disease and every sickness** among the people.

Matthew 4:23 (NRSV)

Teaching the Kingdom

Matthew 5-7

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven**.

Matthew 5:3 (NRSV)



Sermon on the Mount wrap-up

- Two gates – Matthew 7:13-14
- Problem of false prophets – Matthew 7:15-20
- Problem of power – Matthew 7:21-23
- Two foundations – Matthew 7:24-27

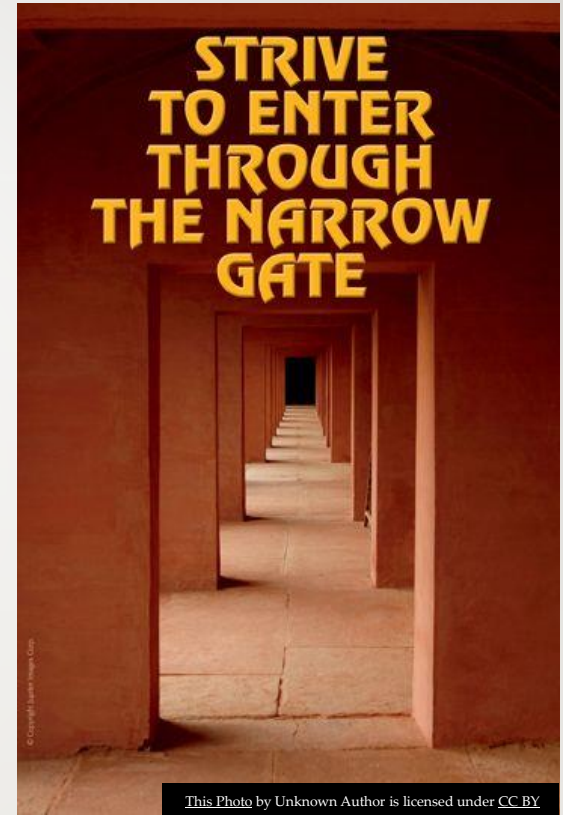
Two gates

Matthew 7:13-14

- **Narrow Gate** – leads to life
- **Broad Gate** – leads to destruction



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False prophets

Matthew 7:15-20

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits.



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- Problem of power – Matthew 7:21-23
- Two foundations – Matthew 7:24-27

“Lord, Lord”

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?’ ²³ Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.’ Matthew 7:21–23 (NRSV)

Lord

- Basic meaning of “Sir.”
 - Term of respect
- Old Testament – Adonai
 - Substitute for YHWH, the name of God.
- Early church – Kyrios
 - “Jesus is Lord,” not “Caesar is lord”



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Choosing our Lord

- Lord and Savior
 - Loyalty is crucial
 - Jesus can't be your Savior if he is not first your Lord.
- Lordship is more than just words
 - The one who enters the kingdom of heaven is the one who does the will of [the] Father in heaven.



On that day...

- Judgment
 - Discerning true and false prophets.
 - Discerning our own loyalty: Are we are doing the Father's will?
- The rationalizations and excuses
 - "...did we not...in your name?"
 - Jesus: "I never knew you..."



“Did we not...in your name?”

- Prophecy – speak God’s word
- Cast out demons – root out evil wherever found
- Do powerful works – demonstrate God is with us

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Acts 1:6-8 (NRSV)

Power in the kingdom of heaven

- Disciples: “Lord, is this the time when you will restore **the kingdom** to Israel?”
- Jesus: “It is not for you to know the times or periods...”
- Jesus: “But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come **upon you**. Fulfilled 10 days later at Pentecost

Acts 1:6-8 (NRSV)

Power to be witnesses



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Where do you get your power?

- **To prophesy** – volume, rhetoric, Bible-thumping?
- To cast out evil – from government or political party?
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Followers of Jesus

- Do the will of the Father
- Exhibit the fruit of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
Galatians 5:22–23 (NRSV)
- Bear witness instead of coercion or condemnation.

The Biggest Threat to Christianity


- Is it **Persecution**?
- Is it **Pluralism**? (Too many competing religions)
- Is it **affluence**? (Riches)
- Is it **science** and **secular education**?
- Is it the **church itself**? (Scandals and lack of love)

The Biggest Threat to Christianity

- After 10 years
- Churches in 160 countries.
- The biggest threat to Christian faith is
when the church relies on the
government for its support.

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