**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr June 4, 2023**

**Jesus, Decisions And Discernment**

Matthew 7:13-23

**Key Truth**: Following Jesus requires repentance, growing in discernment, so that we might distinguish between truth and falsehood.

**We Must Trust The Exclusive Claim of Jesus:**

1. Jesus is telling us that there are two paths, but only one way

 to enter the kingdom of heaven. ACTS 4:12, John 10:7-10, John 14:6

 A. The narrow gate requires us to surrender our lives to God.

 Luke 14:25-27

 B. The wide gate looks most attractive, because it promises all

 the benefits of heaven without repentance.

**The Warning From Jesus: “Beware Of False Prophets”**

1. False prophets claim to speak for God, but their goal is to lead

 you astray.

2. Jesus instructs us how to recognize a false prophet.

 A. Inspect the Fruit of their doctrine. 1 John 4:1-3

 B. Inspect the Fruit of their lifestyle. 2 Peter 2:1-3

 C. Inspect the Fruit of their followers. Jeremiah 23:16-17

**The Wake-Up Call From Jesus:**

1.Not everyone calling Jesus Lord, will enter heaven.

2. A false confession is acknowledging Jesus with your lips, but

 denying Him with your life.

3. False disciples never repented of their sins. Matthew 4:17,

 Galatians 5:16-24

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Surrender your life to Jesus Christ. Pray for the discernment and be careful who you allow to influence you spiritually.

**Connection Group Homework:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Think of a time when you were faced with a tough decision between right and wrong, but chose to do what you knew was wrong. In what way was it the easier choice of the two? What were the consequences?

Read Matthew 7:21-23: What stands out to you about Jesus’ words in verses 21-23? What does Jesus mean by “doing the will of My Father”?

What were these people substituting for their relationship with Christ?

Why will Jesus deny knowing people on Judgment Day—even those who believed they knew Him?

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5: Do you think Paul’s warning to Timothy is still valid today? Why or why not?

Based on this passage, what was the most important thing for Timothy to keep doing? Why might faithfully preaching the Word of God be a deterrent to false teachers?

How does studying the Bible help you recognize and avoid false teaching?

How should churches respond when they encounter a false teaching? How should you respond?

How has being in Connection Group this session helped strengthen your faith in Jesus Christ and the church?