



Opening Question:

What is the smallest space you ever tried to fit in as a child while playing something like hide and seek?

Read: Matthew 7:13-23; Galatians 5:22-24

Can you recall the definition of a disciple that we use here at SCC? What are the 3 components? _____ Jesus, being _____ by Jesus, committed to the _____ of Jesus.

How do you see those 3 components in these 3 sections of the text in Matthew 7?

When a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly, it does not simply enter into its cocoon, grow a pair of wings, and come back out. The process inside the cocoon is utterly destructive of what was, and completely transformative. The caterpillar must then emerge into new life through an opening that seems too small for its new, larger body. However, without the struggle through the narrow opening, the butterfly would be crippled. The narrowness it must emerge through has a refining purpose that reshapes the butterfly in some aspects. The same is true with the narrow gate all disciples must walk through. The journey may be challenging, but it is transformative.



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What might it require of someone to go through the narrow gate, after being on the wider, more populated path? If you've made that choice, what did it require of you?

Practically speaking, what is the narrow gate that true disciples must walk through?

What fruit can we expect to see from someone walking the narrow path?

Does this section of scripture mean that all true believers must instantly be filled with spiritual fruit? Why or why not?

Why is it important to discern the false prophets around us?

v.21-23 should give us great pause. Why?

What can we learn about God from these passages?

Is there anything you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to look at more closely?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for the powerful gift of transformation. Help us set our hearts and minds on things above, and to walk through life as your disciples. Grant us discernment to see the things, the events, and the people around us, even ourselves, through your eyes. May you recognize us on that final day, because we look like Jesus. In the name of Jesus, amen.

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