

**St Martins C3 – March 8, 2026**  
***The Four Warnings – Upside Down Kingdom***

**Sermon Notes:**

This has been a fantastic series looking at what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. It may be upside down from the rest of the world, but it is what authentic discipleship looks like:

- From the heart
- Eliminating selfish motives
- For the glory of God
- Reflecting and connecting with the Father
- Making his way of life ours

Jesus began by pronouncing blessings for those who follow his way, but he ends by revealing the disastrous consequences if they don't. Jesus gives four serious warnings, four contrasts, to put his words into action. These are our warning signs.

**Warning One: Choose the Narrow Path**

*You see this sign when your life looks like everyone else around you.*

*If you see this sign your response should be to seek God above all else.*

**Warning Two: Check Your Influencers**

*You see this sign when you are listening to someone whose life does not line up with the gospel.*

*If you see this sign your response should be to ensure Jesus is your greatest influencer.*

**Warning Three: Be Known by God**

*You see this sign when your when your priority is to work for Jesus not to be known by Him.*

*If you see this sign your response should be to invite Jesus into the deep places of your life.*

**Warning Four: Do What Jesus Says**

*You see this sign when you know what Jesus says but you don't do it.*

*If you see this sign your response should be to focus on doing what God asks of you.*

Taken together these four signs should give us serious pause to consider our lives. To be a true disciple is to choose the harder way of life, to commit to seeking the way of Jesus above all others. The reward is a life that is stable and able to stand up to the storms that gather around our life.

You are a Christian because of the things you practice, not just by walking through the church door. Consider today whether there is an exercise you need to practice to avoid these warnings and become a vehicle of God's grace.

## Questions for Connect Groups:

### Key Point

Heed the warnings of Jesus and become a true disciple.

### Questions

What stood out to you from this week's message?

What does this message tell you about God and humans?

What have you learnt about taking warnings seriously in your life? Share a time when you were given a warning and you did or didn't heed it (e.g. by an authority figure or friend, fuel light). What were the results?

Look at the four warnings from Matthew 7:13-27. Why do you think Jesus gave these warnings?

How does each warning apply to Jesus' overall message of the Sermon on the Mount?

Which of the four warnings hit hardest for you? Why?

How would you know you were on the broad road? How do you get onto the narrow road?

How can you prevent disappointment with a Christian leader turning into disillusionment with God?

What prevents us from letting ourselves be known by God?

Why do we prioritize knowledge over obedience? Where is God asking you to be obedient right now?

## **Monday Devotion: SOAP Bible Study**

As you read today's scripture, take some time to consider whether you are truly living as though you are on the narrow path or whether your life reflects the same values and practices as those on the broad road to destruction.

**Scripture: Matthew 7:13-14**

**Observation** (What stands out to you?)

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**Application** (What will you do?)

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**Prayer** (What do you want to say to God?)

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## **Tuesday Devotion**

The key emphasis of this scripture is to ensure that people are not following false prophets. We need to test the lives of the people we allow to influence us and ensure they are gospel centred to the core.

### **Scripture**

***Matthew 7:15-20***

### **Observation** (What stands out to you?)

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### **Application** (What will you do?)

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### **Prayer** (What do you want to say to God?)

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## **Wednesday Devotion**

I once had some Jehovah's Witnesses quote these verses at me when they interrupted my Bible reading time. They are not supposed to be words to throw in judgment, but a warning that *knowing* Jesus is more important than making an impact.

### **Scripture**

***Matthew 7:21-23***

### **Observation** (What stands out to you?)

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### **Application** (What will you do?)

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### **Prayer** (What do you want to say to God?)

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## **Thursday Devotion**

There are two types of listening. One hears the words, the other hears the words and obeys them. Disciples are doers – reflecting deeply on Jesus words, letting them impact their hearts and bring life change. Determine to do something with what you hear today.

### **Scripture**

***Matthew 7:24-27***

### **Observation** (What stands out to you?)

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### **Application** (What will you do?)

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### **Prayer** (What do you want to say to God?)

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## **Friday Devotion**

The gospel of Matthew is split into sections by the words, “When Jesus had finished ...” Jesus moves from saying into doing. These words were not platitudes, they reflected His nature. Don’t just do what Jesus says but see Him anew today.

### **Scripture**

***Matthew 7:28-29***

### **Observation** (What stands out to you?)

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### **Application** (What will you do?)

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### **Prayer** (What do you want to say to God?)

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