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The Narrowness of the Kingdom Way (part 2): the Non-Marks of a Disciple

Matthew 7:21-23

1. How is this week's text different from last week's? If you were to summarize this text in a sentence what would you say?

2. What is the Gospel? Do you think the church in America accurately communicates the Gospel? What about the Gospel do you think the church represents accurately? How do you think the American church fails at giving an accurate picture of the Gospel? When you share the Gospel with someone, what are you inviting them to?

3. What are the marks of a true believer? What are marks we often mistake for true marks? Why do you think that we are prone to establish our own template for what a Christian is or isn't?

4. Read Matthew 13:24-30. What is the point of the parable? Explain what it means to say that "the kingdom of heaven is like" this parable. Who are represented in the parable by:

    a) the wheat –

    b) the weeds –

c) the enemy –

d) the sower -

5. Read 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. How does Satan masquerade as an angel of light today? How do you determine whether you are observing a satanic counterfeit of the real thing?

6. Read 1 John 2:3-6. Summarize this text in your own words. What are the implications of this text for our understanding of what it means to have a genuine interactive relationship with God?

7. Pray for each other to obey Christ and show yourselves to be true believers.