

Three Sermon Series:
There are predictable liabilities in discerning the supernatural

Part 1: Be a Discerning People (Matthew 7:13-14)

I. Jesus' curious segue into Matthew 7

“Sufficient for the day is its own *trouble*.” (Matthew 6:34)

A. Defining the word ‘trouble.’

In this sinful world, each day is adequate to bring its own vice, its own wickedness or malice, its own vicious disposition which tends to put the worst spin on everything.

B. Therefore: Be discerning of your own disposition

II. Understanding how 7:1-6 are connected

A. 7:1-4

“Don't try to correct others when **you need** spiritual correction far more yourself; first, be discerning about your own tendency toward spiritual sinfulness.”

1 Cor. 1:18 = Remember: The Gospel hardens **and** softens the human heart

B. 7:5-6

Who are the dogs and swine? Dogs and swine judge divine truth with ignorance and suspicion. Therefore, because the Gospel is sacred, be discerning about giving it to those who reject it with vicious scorn and hardened contempt.

III. Jesus and narrowness:

Jesus is **explicit** about the narrowness of the calling of the Gospel.

Jn. 14:6; 8:24; Acts 4:12

A. What must you *leave behind* when you enter the narrow gate?

- = Your misunderstanding of the person of God
- = Any sins of hypocrisy and pretense
- = A world view that denies the reality of God
- = Any worry about narrowness: 'dire straits'
- = The majority opinion

IV. We believe the reality and truth about the narrow and the broad gates *only* because they are God's revelation

A. The conflict that each gate offers you:

- 1) **Narrow:** distress, persecution, trouble and affliction, but eternal blessing
- 2) **Broad:** a life of ease, free from restrictions, but an eternity of misery

IV. Why *strive* to enter the narrow gate?

Matthew 7:13 commands that you *enter* the narrow gate immediately.

Luke 13:24 commands that you struggle with the difficulties and dangers that are antagonistic to the Gospel