SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Matt. 7:13-20 **Date:** November 22, 2026 **Preacher:** Monty Simao

Understanding the Text

1. Jesus presents only two gates and two roads. In verse 13, the Greek word for "broad" conveys the idea of roominess or accommodation. Why is the broad road wide enough to hold both the openly rebellious sinner and the self-righteous moralist?
2. In verse 14, the word Jesus uses for the "narrow" way shares a root with the NT word for tribulation and pressure. Why is the gate too small to fit our pride and self-righteousness, and why does walking the narrow road inevitably bring pressure and opposition in this present evil age?
3. Jesus warns His disciples, "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves". How do false teachers use biblical vocabulary and outward credentials to widen the narrow gate and make the broad road appear safe?
4. Verse 19 warns that "every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." Why can a bad tree never make itself good simply by trying harder to obey God's Law?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. Where in your life are you currently tempted to take the "easy way"—drifting with cultural norms, avoiding costly obedience, or letting personal convenience dictate your commitments?
2. Our culture prizes detachment, preferring to evaluate truth from the critic's chair rather than submit to it. In what areas of biblical doctrine or personal character do you find Jesus' commands most restrictive?
3. What voices—teachers, podcasts, books, or media—currently shape your thinking the most? How can you practice genuine spiritual vigilance without falling into the harsh, self-righteous spirit Jesus condemned?
4. Even healthy trees still contend with remaining sin in this life. When you see flawed fruit in your own heart, how does resting in Christ free you from despair and move you to walk the narrow road in grateful dependence on the Holy Spirit?