



Portland  
CHRISTIAN CENTER

# UNLEASHED

REPURPOSING OUR RESOURCES - RELEASING OUR POTENTIAL

**TUNE UP YOUR DISCERNMENT**

# MATTHEW 7:13-23

*“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

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*<sup>15</sup> “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. <sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?”*

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*17 “Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*

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*<sup>20</sup> “Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. <sup>21</sup> Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

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*<sup>22</sup> “Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not **prophecy** in your name, and in your name **drive out demons** and **perform many miracles?**’ <sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”*

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# VITALLY IMPORTANT

1. To follow Jesus requires swallowing the **bitter medicine** along with the **sweet nectar**.

*“Praise God for the hammer, the file and the furnace.”* ~**SAMUEL RUTHERFORD**

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# VITALLY IMPORTANT

2. This is a **gullible age** where many undiscerning Christians are **drifting** into a **feel-good gospel** that is far from the small gate-narrow way.

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*“For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to **say** what their **itching ears** want to **hear**.<sup>4</sup> They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to **myths**.”* ~II TIMOTHY 4:3-4

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*“No [preacher] can at one and the same time prove that he is clever and that Christ is wonderful.”* ~**JAMES DENNY**

*“I preached as never sure to preach again and as a dying man to dying men.”* ~**RICHARD BAXTER**

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# VITALLY IMPORTANT

3. The unleashed Kingdom Life must be ruthlessly watched over and fiercely guarded by a **discerning church.**

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*“Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not **prophecy** in your name, and in your name **drive out demons** and **perform many miracles?**’”* ~MATTHEW 7:22-23

*“By their fruit you will recognize them.”* ~MATTHEW

7:16,20

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# STAYING ALERT

- ◆ False teachers ooze **self-interest** rather than **Christ-centeredness**.
  - ❖ They teach for personal **profit**
  - ❖ They teach for personal **prestige**
  - ❖ They teach for personal **promotion**

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# STAYING ALERT

- ◆ False teachers promote **temporal good over eternal gain.**
- ◆ False teachers recruit to **easy believe-ism rather than cross-bearing discipleship.**

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# STAYING ALERT

- ◆ False teachers emphasize **intellectual knowledge over practical obedience.**

*“To live and work for the glory of God cannot remain an **idea** about which we **think** once in a while. It must become an interior, unceasing doxology.”* ~HENRI NOUWEN

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# STAYING ALERT

- ◆ **False teachers press for the applause of man rather than the surrender of the heart.**

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*“I have set before you life and death, the blessings and the curse. Choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying his voice and by holding fast to Him.” ~ DEUTERONOMY 30:19-20*

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*“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.”* ~JOSHUA 24:15

*“Then the Lord told me to say to the people, ‘Listen! I, the Lord, am giving you a choice between the way that leads to life and the way that leads to death.’”* ~JEREMIAH 21:8 (TEV)

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