

# Radical obedience

## discussion guide

based on **Matthew 7.13-29** (Linked to sermon of 22/3/26)

[www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series](http://www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series)

*This was part of a series on the Sermon on the Mount*

Intro: As we've gone through the Sermon on the Mount, what has stood out to you?

### **Read Matthew 7.13-19**

Why do so many choose a path through life that leads to destruction?

At what times do you feel most tempted to walk along the broad road?

How could you help each other to keep choosing the narrow road?

Think of examples of false prophets, according to Jesus' definition in these verses.

Why are false prophets so enticing? What steps can we take to spot false prophets?

### **Read Matthew 7.20-29**

Verses 21-23 are very unsettling for some Christians because it seems to imply that calling Jesus 'Lord' and doing ministry in his name is no guarantee that he considers us a genuine Christian. If that's not his test, what does he say is?

Read Acts 19.13-16. Does that shed any more light on the verses from the Sermon on the Mount?

What's the link between verses 21-23 and 24-27?

Someone said that "obedience is Jesus' love language" – see John 14.15. How does that stop us sliding into legalism when we read these verses in the Sermon on the Mount?

How might obedience to Jesus help us through the storms of life?

### **Personal reflection:**

Head – what have you learned in this session that you need to ponder on more?

Heart – what has spoken to your heart in this session that you need to pray through more?

Hands – what actions do you need to take to put this into practice?

Is there anything from this reflection you want to share with your group (or one or two others in the group) so they can pray for you specifically, and encourage you in the days ahead?

### **Prayer suggestions:**

- As well as praying through the passage, pray for all those who are turning up in churches around the country, curious to find meaning, purpose, hope and community. One man who came to our church recently said, "I've been amazed

by how Jesus' teaching is still so relevant, 2000 years on." Pray for people to be "amazed at Jesus' teaching, because he taught as one who had authority ..."

- Pray for our Easter events and services coming up – for many to hear and respond to the Good News of Jesus
- Pray for the 4 people getting baptised or re-affirming their baptism vows on Easter Sunday (Trevor, Terry, Seyi, Jordan).