



A recent Harris Poll revealed the following interesting information about Americans:

95% believe in the existence of God.

84% believe in the survival of the soul after death.

82% believe Heaven exists.

63% believe Hell exists.

75% believe they will go to Heaven.

18% don't know where they will be after death.

6% believe they will be in Purgatory.

1% believe they will be in Hell.

Jesus preached his keynote sermon – we call it the “Sermon on the Mount.” The concluding statements of his message are recorded in Matthew 7:13-29 and this will be the basis of our talk today.

FACT #1:

EVERYONE IS NOT GOING TO HEAVEN

Matthew 7:13, *Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. (NIV)*

Jesus believed in heaven and hell and spoke much about them.

Both heaven and hell are gated communities.

There are only two gates, two roads, and two destinations.

FACT #2:

MORE PEOPLE WILL GO TO HELL THAN HEAVEN

Matthew 7:13-14, *Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. (NIV)*

In our politically-correct culture, this is not a popular conviction, but it is very biblical. Jesus said it.

Jesus said that he was the only way to the Father, and life and truth are in him.

John 14:6, *I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (NIV)*

FACT #3:

MANY WHO THINK THEY ARE FOLLOWING JESUS AREN'T

Matthew 7:12-23, *Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who*

does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you.' (NIV)

Jesus is contrasting outward acts of religion versus the inward reality of connection with God through faith.

This is not an invitation to insecurity, but it is a sober call to self-examination.

2 Corinthians 13:5, Examine yourselves to see whether you are still in the Christian faith. Test yourselves! Don't you recognize that you are people in whom Jesus Christ lives? Could it be that you are failing the test?

FACT #4:

AFTER DEATH YOU CANNOT CHANGE COURSE

Hebrews 9:27, Each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment. (NCV)