

Matthew 7:21-23: Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?" ²³ And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness."

Intro: Do you know people who appeared to follow Christ once in their lives, but have now fallen away? Popular pastors like Joshua Harris; Personal friends: college friend; someone in seminary; friend at internship: apostasy.

Jesus, in the passage we are studying today, speaks of something even more frightening & terrifying. These people Jesus speaks of thought of themselves as Jesus' followers, all the way to the very end, the day of judgment. But they are deceived. They think they are what they are not. And Jesus tells them they're deceived. But it's too late.

- **Steven Lawson:** Of all the shocking things Jesus ever said in the three years of His public ministry, I believe personally this has to be the most shocking teaching to ever come from His lips.

- **Lloyd-Jones:** These, surely, are in many ways the most solemn and solemnizing words ever uttered in this world, not only by any man, but even by the Son of God Himself. Indeed, were any man to utter such words we should feel compelled not only to criticize but even to condemn him. But they are words spoken by the Son of God Himself, and therefore demand our most earnest attention.

May no one here today ever find themselves in this number of whom Jesus speaks on the day of judgment! May we all be among the few who go through the narrow gate, walk on the narrow, hard path who find eternal life!

1. Not Everyone Who Makes A Profession Will Have Kingdom Possession

Not everyone who makes a profession of faith in Jesus Christ will be given possession of the kingdom of heaven because of their transgression and truth suppression and failure to have an obsession with God's will and live it out with their life's expression.

Matthew 7:21: Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven

a. This is a true, Biblical profession/confession: Jesus is Lord! Jesus is truly God and truly man! He owns us!

- **Romans 10:9:** if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord **and believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

- **Romans 10:13:** For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

- **Joel 2:32:** everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.

b. True, Biblical professions and confessions are not enough: You can have orthodox doctrine & not be saved! You can say true things about God & not be saved! You can profess and confess truth and not be saved! (me till 18)

Mark 1:24: (unclean spirit) I know who you are - the Holy One of God. (**Yet orthodox doctrine is essential!**)

c. You must do the will of Jesus' Father in heaven: Matthew 7:21: Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who **does the will of my Father who is in heaven.**

1) It is the will of Jesus' Father in heaven that you repent of your sins and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ:

Matthew 4:17: From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

GOSPEL John 3:16; Acts 16:31; If you do this, then you have been born again! New heart! New life! New person!

2) It is the will of Jesus' Father in heaven that you obey His Word: a. Obey the Sermon on the Mount: Be poor in spirit; Mourn over our sin; Be meek and gentle; Hunger & thirst for righteousness; Be merciful; Be pure in heart;

Be peacemakers; Die to sinful anger; Be reconciled with your brothers & sisters in Christ; Die to sexual immorality, even at the mind & heart level; Be faithful in your marriages, stay married, & reject divorce; Keep your word; Do not retaliate against those who do you evil; Be a generous, giving person; Love your enemies & pray for those who persecute you; Do your righteousness in secret before God alone for the glory of God alone & not for the praise of men; Give generously, pray Biblically, & fast earnestly, but not to be seen by anyone but God; Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth & rust destroy, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where moth & rust cannot & will not destroy; Serve God, not money; Don't be anxious but trust Your Father in heaven Who richly provides all you need; Seek first the kingdom of God & His righteousness; Don't judge in a sinful, hypocritical way; Enter the narrow gate, walk on the narrow path that few travel, & find life!

b. Obey all of your Father's Word from the heart: Psalm 119:174: your law is my delight.

- **1 Thessalonians 4:3-6:** For this is **the will of God**, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:18:** Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is **the will of God** in Christ Jesus for you.

- **1 Peter 2:15-17:** For this is **the will of God**, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

- **Hebrews 10:24-25:** let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

c. Love God and others: The greatest commandment and 2nd greatest commandment

d. Delight in God: Psalm 37:4: Delight yourself in the LORD, & He will give you the desires of your heart.

- **Philippians 3:7-8:** But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

e. Know the LORD: 1 Samuel 2:12: Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the LORD.

- **1 Sam. 3:7:** Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, & the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him

- **John 17:3:** And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

2. That Day Is Coming – The Day Of Judgment Is Coming

Matthew 7:22: On that day many will say to me

- **Matthew 24:36-37:** But concerning **that day** and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

- **Romans 2:16:** on **that day** when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

- **2 Thessalonians 1:7-10:** when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God & on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord & from the glory of his might, when he comes on **that day** to be glorified in his saints, & to be marveled at among all who have believed

- **And Reward: 2 Timothy 4:8:** Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on **that Day**, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

3. Many People Will Be Trusting In Their Own Works On That Day

Matthew 7:22: On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?"

a. Many people will be deceived on the day of judgment: Many are on the broad, easy way that leads to destruction. Few are on the narrow, hard way that leads to life. And they are deceived! They think they know Jesus, and they think they are serving Jesus! They call Jesus Lord! They did wonders in Jesus' name! They are deceived!

b. People will plead with Jesus for their eternal souls on that day: For many, this will be a frightening day!

Mavis-Hymn: Judgment is surely coming, coming to you and me; We will be judged that morning, for all eternity
Some will go into heaven, others will be denied; Will you be in that number, standing outside?

Standing outside the portals, standing outside denied; Knowing that with the demons, ever you shall abide
Never to share the beauty, awaiting the sanctified; Oh! what an awful picture, standing outside.

Standing outside while loved ones, enter the pearly gate; Knowing that there forever, you will then separate
To be away from loved ones and by our God denied; Oh! what an awful picture, standing outside?

Can you not see the picture of those who're lost in sin; Standing outside the portals, without a hope to win
Soul-crushed with deepest sorrow, without a friend to guide; Oh! what an awful picture, standing outside.

b. People will plead for mercy on the basis of their own works on that day: The Gospel Question?

Romans 4:4-5: Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness

c. The nature of these works are charismatic signs: Prophesying, casting out demons, mighty works!

- **Matthew 12:39:** An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign

- **1 Corinthians 13:1-3:** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

- **Galatians 5:22-23:** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Godly character is infinitely more important than gifts (teaching; eloquence; tongues; prophecy)-prosperity gospel

4. Jesus Will Declare He Never Knew These Workers Of Lawlessness

Matthew 7:23: And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness."

a. The most terrifying words you could ever hear: I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.

b. Jesus never knew them: He knows all things! But they were never saved! He never had a saving relationship with them: **Amos 3:2:** You only have I known of all the families of the earth

Romans 8:29: For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son

c. Jesus will send them to hell: Depart from me!

d. Jesus has authority to cast into hell and grant entrance into heaven: Jesus is God! He is the Judge!

D. A. Carson: Verse 23 presupposes an implicit Christology of the highest order. Jesus himself decides not only who enters the kingdom on the last day but also who will be banished from his presence.

e. These false professors are workers of lawlessness: Though they thought they knew the LORD & called Jesus LORD & did ministry in Jesus' name, they are deceived. They are sinners and live in sin, rebelling against God.

f. Does Jesus know you?: John 10:14-15, 27-28: I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep . . . ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

g. God's Word calls us to examine ourselves: 2 Peter 1:5-10: For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰ **Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure,** for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

2 Corinthians 13:5: Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? - unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

h. Jesus wants you; He wants to know you: As Christians we can get so caught up in fretting and worrying about what we must do for God and how we can serve God and how we must do great things for God. Remember Mary and Martha? **Jesus wants to know you!**

Lloyd-Jones: . . . we must realize that what God wants, and what our blessed Lord wants, above all, is ourselves – what the Scriptures call our “heart” He wants the inner man, the heart. He wants our submission. He does not merely want our profession, our zeal, our fervor, our works nor anything else. He wants us. God wants our unlimited obedience more than our offering and sacrifice. It is possible for a man to say the right things, be very busy and active in His service to achieve wonderful results, and yet not give himself to the Lord. He may be doing it all for himself, and he may be resisting the Lord in the most vital place of all. And that is finally the greatest insult any man can extend to the Lord. What can be a greater insult than to say “Lord, Lord” fervently, busy and actively yet withhold true allegiance and submission from Him, to insist upon retaining control of our own lives, and allow our own opinions and arguments, rather than the Scriptures, to control what we do, and, how we do it. Another greatest insult to the Lord is a will that is not completely and entirely surrendered to Him. And whatever else we may do – it will avail us nothing. If we believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the only begotten Son of God, and that He came into this world and went to the Cross at Calvary and died for the sins of mankind, and rose again in order to justify us and give us life anew and prepare us for heaven – if you really believe this, there is only one inevitable deduction: namely that He is entitled to the whole of our lives – everything without any limit whatsoever. This means that He must have control over all things about us. We must submit to Him and His way as He has been pleased to reveal in the Bible.

Jesus experienced a terrifying judgment day even worse than this so that you & I may never face this condemnation from His own lips! Jesus cried out “Father! Father!” & truly knew the Father & was truly known by the Father & was perfectly faithful to do all the will of His Father in heaven. But He was cast outside the gate under the wrath of God! Jesus preached & prophesied like no man ever did; He cast out demons like no man ever did; He did mighty works like no man ever did in the name of the LORD – all in perfect righteousness and perfect obedience to His Father's will; Yet on that cross He heard His Father, in a sense, say to Him: “Depart from me, I don't know You; Because I have taken all the works of lawlessness of all Your people & counted them as Your lawless deeds, though You Yourself committed no lawless deeds. You are forsaken. You are alone. I will crush You; I will strike You; & I will curse You with all my wrath because of their sin.” **He rose!**

Christ Jesus Did His Father's Will
He Is The LORD Who Lived With Zeal
Perfection Did God's Word Fulfill
Yet Sinners Took Him To A Hill
The Serpent's Crushed But Bruised His Heel
They Beat And Whipped His Body Still
The Father Crushed His Son So We'll
Be Saved From Wrath And Pleasures Feel
For He's Been Raised And Saves Until

He'll Come Again To Judge For Real
Do You Know Him? Trust Him Still?
On That Day When Praise Should Spill
He Won't Know Many Though They Kneel
Their End Is Hell Without Appeal
Avoid That Number He Will Kill
Trust Him Alone And Do God's Will
Then On That Day He'll Be Your Thrill
And Save Your Soul With Joys Seal!