

The Deadly Deception of Religion
Matthew 7:21-23
August 30, 2026

Pastor Vaughn

No outline today

Matthew 7:21 - 23

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'

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Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others. For more information about Koinonia Groups at Heritage Church that utilize these questions as the basis for their discussion, please see Pastor Vaughn or e-mail Vaughn@hcgj.org.

1. Who are those described by Jesus in Matthew 5:3 as "the poor in spirit," and why does He say that "theirs is the kingdom of heaven?"
2. Read Matthew 5:20. Why was the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees defective?
3. How does the biblical Christian faith differ from the world's innumerable religions?
4. In the message, Pastor Vaughn said that the proof of the true saving knowledge of Jesus is obedience to His word. Do you agree? Why or why not? Can you think of any Scriptures that support your answer?
5. Read Matthew 7:22 carefully. Do you see any particular attitude on the part of the condemned that betrays their lack of saving faith in Jesus? What is it?
6. How do religionists practice lawlessness?

Here are some resources that may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Vaughn cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

MacArthur, John. **The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Matthew 1 -7.** Moody Publishers, 1985.

Morris, Leon. **The Gospel According to Matthew: Pillar New Testament Commentary.** Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1992

Turner, David L. **Matthew (Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament.** Baker Academic, 2008

Streaming of both the audio and video of today's sermon is available on the Heritage website (HCGJ.org) and App (Heritage GJ). The App can also be found on YouTube, RokuTV, AppleTV, GoogleTV, FireTV, and CarPlay. Podcasts for Heritage Church can also be found on your favorite provider.