

Matthew 7:21-23

Throughout his sermon, Jesus has been teaching us how to live according to the kingdom of heaven. And now he wants us to examine the evidence of kingdom living in our lives. It is not those who think and talk about religious things, but those who obey the will of God who belong to the kingdom.

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. 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.'

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It is only through Jesus, who perfectly obeyed, that we can enter into the kingdom. He makes the way, and then asks us to obey. One day, Jesus is coming back. When he does, the evidence of our faith will be seen in our obedience to him.

Discussion Questions

- How often do you think about the fact that Jesus is coming back? Does that encourage you? Scare you? Confuse you?
- In these verses, two people are compared. How are the two people distinguished?
- What is the will of God? (Matt 22:37-39; James 1:22-25)
- In what ways does your lifestyle make your obedience to God evident?
- In what ways do you need to make adjustments in order to do the will of God?

Prayer

Break up into smaller groups for prayer.

- Who are you praying for to know Jesus?
- What gospel conversations have you had this week with someone who doesn't follow Jesus?
- How is your time with God?
- What are you praying for?
- What are you struggling with?