

Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church – Crockett, Texas

October 12, 2025 – More Than Words: The Faith that Saves

Main Passage: Matthew 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?’ Then I will announce to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!’”

Introduction

- We are nearing the end of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount.
- Jesus has warned about false prophets; now He turns to false followers.
- His words call us to examine what we think we know about faith and salvation.
- Outward appearance and religious actions are not enough.
- The evidence of true faith is found in the heart, not external behavior.
- Religion that focuses on “act right, do right, be right” misses the point.
- Jesus teaches that the issue is not behavior — it’s belief.

1. Our Words Are Not Enough

- Many will speak the right words but lack a true relationship with Christ.
- Saying “Lord, Lord” does not equal salvation.
- Religion without relationship leaves people outside the Kingdom.
- They wear the uniform, but they’re not on the team.

2. External Fruit Is Not the Measure of True Faith

- Fruit that looks good outwardly can still be rotten inside.
- Kindness, gentleness, and joy can appear in unbelievers.
- These traits alone don’t prove salvation.
- True fruit grows from a heart changed by Jesus, not from human effort.

3. Religious Actions Cannot Earn Salvation

- Jesus rebukes those who appear righteous but are spiritually dead inside.
- Prayers, service, and ministry mean nothing without a heart surrendered to Christ.
- Salvation is not achieved by what we do, but by whom we know.
- Outward religion without inward faith leads to rejection.

4. Illustration: Johnathan's Story

- A young man in full-time ministry led many to Christ, but wasn't saved himself.
- The Holy Spirit revealed his need for a genuine relationship with the Father.
- His ministry activity blinded him to his own spiritual need.
- That day, he surrendered everything to God and trusted Christ alone for salvation.

Application

- On judgment day, there will be two verdicts:
 - "Well done, My good and faithful servant," or
 - "Depart from Me, for I never knew you."
- The will of the Father is to believe in the Son and receive eternal life (John 6:40).
- Eternal life comes through faith, not through performance.
- The rich young ruler missed the truth — inheritance is for children, not workers.
- Through faith, we are adopted as sons and daughters of the King.
- What must you do? Believe and receive.

Conclusion

- When we stand before God, only one thing matters: being known by Jesus.
- Actions, service, and reputation cannot save — only faith in Christ.
- Have you believed and received the Son?
- Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life?
- The Kingdom awaits — will you hear *"Well done"* or *"Depart from Me"*?

"He had gotten so busy in the Gospel ministry that he missed the Gospel truth."

"Salvation is not achieved through what we do, but through who we know."