

THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE

Studies in the Sermon on the Mount

Part LCIV

“False Peace”

Part One

“The Scariest Words Ever Heard”

I. Introduction

We will take the next 2 weeks to study what I believe to be the “scariest words ever heard:”, contained in 3 verses of scripture found in Matthew 7:21-23.

A. Text

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 7:21 NIV

1. This verse is frightening because so many have been taught that everyone who calls Jesus “LORD”, will go to heaven. But Jesus Himself says “not everyone”! And it’s not a “few”...

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

Matthew 7:22-23 NASB

2. Look at this verse. Many who call Jesus Lord, and even cast out demons and do miracles in His name will not get into heaven. What an awful awakening!

“Note that these ‘counterfeits’ are surprised on judgment day! It is possible to fool ourselves! Satan blinds the mind and deceives people into thinking they are saved. When Christ returns, millions of professing Christians will be

surprised to find out they were never saved at all!

Warren Wiersbe

a. Of all the Lord's many warnings, what could be scarier than this one?

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.

David Martyn Lloyd-Jones

3. Before we unpack this passage, I need you to remember that we have always taught you to study the Bible with a sense of context; so before we dive into these verses, let me remind you of where these words are found in the “big picture of scripture”.

B. Context

1. We are now in the “home stretch” in our verse-by-verse studies in the Sermon on the Mount, which we call “The Normal Christian Life”.

2. This is Jesus' detailed description of what a true believer is and how he lives.

3. Many Bible scholars believe the formal part of the Sermon ends in Matthew 7:12, commonly called the “Golden Rule”.

**Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
Matthew 7:12 NKJV**

4. So the actual sermon is 98 verses long and covers everything we need to know about what it means to be Christian and a child of God. But the last 15 verses of the Sermon are different.

5. The Lord leaves off His description of the normal Christian life to close with a series of solemn *warnings*.

a. This reminds me of what a Mother or Father does on their way out

the door leaving their children at home. They have spent their lives training their children what they are to do and how they are to believe. But their last words are warnings; “stay in the house; “keep the door locked”; “if you cook something, turn the burners off!” In the same way, *the Lord Jesus leaves His disciples with 3 distinct warnings:*

6. There are 3 warning here in the closing chapter:

a. **First, He warned them about a FALSE GOSPEL. (Matthew 7:13-14)** Many are on the broad way to destruction. But the true Gospel is a strait gate and a narrow way. Few find it.

b. Second, He warned them...

**“Beware of false prophets...”
Matthew 7:15**

- Watch out for those who look like sheep, but really are wolves: they are very nice; they are popular; their message offends no one; but their Gospel has no “strait gate”, no” narrow way”. The only way you will know them is by their fruits.

c. But now He gives a 3rd warning, the most serious of all; that many who call Jesus “Lord” will arrive at the final judgement and discover they are not saved at all.

**"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."
Matthew 7:21 NKJV**

7. These 3 warnings are somewhat connected:

- a. Beware of a *false gospel*, no strait gate no narrow way
- b. Beware of a *false prophet*, a wolf that looks like a sheep, but teaches a false gospel
- c. Beware because it is possible to be deceived about salvation; it is possible someone can end up with what our forefathers called “false peace”, thinking they are right with God but who aren’t.

II. The Scariest Words Ever Heard

A. Not Everyone Who Names God Knows God

1. The meaning of the words here is clear: it is possible to call Jesus “Lord” and not be saved. Immediately we think about what Paul said in Romans 10?

"The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9 NIV

a. And 3 verses later, we read this...

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10:13 NIV

2. But Jesus says there are those on the judgment day who will call Him Lord who will *not* be saved! Is Jesus right or is Paul right? The answer is both! The Bible does not contradict itself. Think of it this way....

Everyone who is saved calls Jesus Lord.

No one will be saved who does not call Jesus Lord.

And yet, not everyone who calls Jesus Lord will be saved.

3. Jesus is simply saying that “saving” faith, (or the faith that saves), involves more than lip service or “mental assent”.

4. Church history teaches us that many a minister has offered a “false peace” based on mere profession. Back in the mid 1700’s, Robert Sandeman, a Scottish minister, and his brother in law John Glas led a movement that preached that saving faith is nothing more than intellectual assent that Jesus is Lord.

“Justifying (saving) faith is a simple assent to the divine testimony concerning Jesus Christ, differing no way in character from belief in any ordinary testimony.”

Robert Sandeman

(1718-1781)

a. He maintained that believing in Jesus was no different from

believing in any other historical report. (I believe in Napoleon or Henry VIII).

b. But even the devils believe in God...

You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God.* Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.

James 2:19 NLT

c. This error, known as “Sandemanianism” continues to this day; ministers give an altar call and solicit a verbal confession of “Jesus is Lord” from a responder; and then pronounce that person to be “saved”.

d. But this verse says it is not necessarily so!

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

Matthew 7:22-23 NASB

e. To simply say Jesus is Lord without a lifestyle that verifies your profession of faith can produce “false peace”, a tragic deception.

5. Our faithful forefathers preached on this.

“Those that go no further in Christ's service than a bare profession, he does not accept, nor will he own them in the great day. See from what a height of hope men may fall into the depth of misery! How they may go to hell by way of the gates of heaven! This should be an awakening word to all Christians.” Matthew Henry

a. Charles Haddon Spurgeon pastored the great Metropolitan Tabernacle in London in the late 1800’s; his Sunday sermons were printed in the London newspapers on Mondays; he is known as the “Prince of Preachers”. Here are some clips of his message on these verses...

“Oh! I do not know of a more thoroughly damnable delusion than for a man to get a conceit into his head, that he is a child of God, and yet live in sin-to talk to you about grace, while he is living lust and trampling God’s commandments under foot.”

Charles Spurgeon

He continues...

“Churches are hot-beds of hypocrisy when men are taught that it is the belief of a certain set of sentiments that will save them, and not warned that this is

all in vain without a real living faith in Christ.

Charles Spurgeon

And what did he say to his congregation at the end of his message?

“Let me tell you that if you have a peace to-day which enables you to be at peace with your sins as well as with God, that peace is a false peace. Unless you hate sin of every sort, with all your heart, you are not a child of God, you are not reconciled to God by the death of his Son.”

Charles Spurgeon

With all gentleness, may I ask if any preacher you’ve ever heard spoke thus to you? Oh, how we preachers may have much to answer for!

6. False peace comes when we separate holiness as a condition for heaven. Hebrews 12:14 says “pursue peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord”; but the great Puritan Pastor Thomas Watson points out that...

“False peace separates those things God has joined together: God has joined holiness and peace, but he who hath a false peace separates the two.”

Thomas Watson, Puritan Pastor

B. Faith Without Works is Dead!

1. We already referred to James 2:19; look at the rest of the verse....
James...

You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God.* Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. How foolish! Can't you see that faith without works is dead?

James 2:19

a. James doesn't say that our works save us! He is saying that true faith is *always* followed by good works.

The irony is that we prove by our works that we are saved by grace. It was the great reformer Martin Luther who said, “No root, no fruit.”

2. In Luke's version of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says...

"So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say?"

Luke 6:46 NLT

3. I speak humbly and in the fear of the Lord in wondering how many American churchgoers keep calling Jesus “Lord, Lord” but do not do what He said.

4. Many of us say to Jesus, “I love you”; He says to us...

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:15

5. How do we know we love Him?

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

1 John 5:2-3 KJV

III. Conclusion

A false Gospel preached by false prophets produces a “false peace”; the deception that salvation is nothing more than a mental assent to the fact that “Jesus is Lord”;

Counterfeit Christianity has always been the greatest enemy of true spirituality. And surely the greatest trouble at this present moment is the worldly state of the Church. We should be much more concerned about the state of the Church herself than about the state of the world outside the Church.

David Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Testimony: As I am preparing to preach a message like this, there is always a sense of holy fear that comes to my soul; an awareness that the Lord’s warning applies to the pulpit as well as the pew; that I myself must be accountable to God and am ever needful of His grace. I close with these words from one of my heroes, the great English revivalist John Wesley, Founder of the Methodist Church, who after winning 10’s of 1000’s of souls to Christ, said this...

“After I have thus successfully preached to others, still I myself may be a castaway. I may, in the hand of God, snatch many souls from hell, and yet

drop into it when I have done. I may bring many others to the kingdom of heaven, and yet myself never enter there. Reader, if God hath ever blessed my word to thy soul, pray that he may be merciful to me a sinner!"

John Wesley

Personal Testimony: I do not live in fear of losing my salvation; but I ever live in the light of knowing that my life must reflect my claiming of Christ as my Lord. Anything less would be "false peace". Amen

Communion