

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT—PATRICK WALTON

A Journey Into Matthew 4-7 9.11.2022

Week #38 | “In Christ, You Can’t Fake It Till You Make It”

I. OPENING (MATTHEW 7:21-23)

II. THE NECESSITY OF OBEDEINCE (MATT. 7:21)

1. **Matthew 7:21** *“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.”*
- B. Well, in the verse’s previous Jesus started at one place that was serious, but now He’s even further down the road, increasing the intensity of what He’s trying to get across. The wide-open gate analogy (**Matt. 7:13-14**) gave way to the danger of false teaching (**Matt. 7:15-20**).
- C. And now the danger of false teaching is being contrasted with the danger of a false/empty profession (**Matt. 7:21-23**). The whole point that Jesus is working to drive home in the larger conclusion of **Matthew 7** is, are you responding to His teaching with obedience to them?
- D. The situation Jesus presents is that there will be people who refer to Him as Lord, even with great passion, but they’ve never done His will, they haven’t lived obedience to Him and His teachings.
- E. Obedience to Jesus doesn’t earn our salvation, but it does give evidence that our faith is genuine (**Jam. 2:14-17**). The primary way that we express our faith, is through works of obedience to Jesus.
- F. A confession of faith, separated from the fruits of faith in our life won’t profit us anything, it won’t buy us anything, it’s not giving us anything here on earth, or later in eternity.
 1. It was Martin Luther who rightly said, *“We are justified by faith alone, but not by a faith that is alone.”* –R. C. Sproul, *Can We Know We Are Saved*, Pg. 13
- G. Unlike the Catholic Church who believes we are justified by FAITH AND WORKS, the protestant Church believes that works are a result of our justification through faith ALONE.
 1. Catholic Church (Faith + Works = Justification)
 2. Protestant Church (Faith = Justification + Works) *Works are the fruit of our justification, not the root of our justification.*
- H. Now you say, why all this fruit, works, faith, justification discussion? The reason is because, this is the singular thing that Jesus is getting at in these verses. Does your profession of faith include a life lived by faith?
- I. Jesus isn’t criticizing these people because they say the right things. It’s right to call Him Lord! What Jesus is taking aim at is that this saying alone can’t save us! Orthodoxy is important, but it doesn’t save us. Knowing ABOUT God and KNOWING God are different.
- J. Friends, Jesus is clear, those that enter heaven with Him, are those that have followed Him, that have reached to obey Him, that have lived as disciples of His, those that have done the will of His Father.
 1. This is the true test of a person who’s rightly HEARD Jesus’ teaching; they are reaching to DO THE TEACHING.

III. (MATT. 7:22)

1. **Matthew 7:22** “Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?”
- B. Well, in the opening words of Jesus in the previous verse, it’s already clear by the confession of these people that it’s going poorly. Meaning. Jesus is like, “Hey, not everyone who says to Me Lord, Lord will enter into the Kingdom of heaven.” And upon hearing it, a large group responds, “What? What do you mean? How can this be? We’ve been doing the stuff, around the stuff, selling the stuff, wearing the stuff.” (*The dog and the rock analogy*)
 1. You can hear the shock and outrage from this group of people that they aren’t actually doing the will of God.
- C. The problem is that their confession of Lord, Lord isn’t real, Jesus isn’t actually their Lord, even though they used this title for Him. Their lips and their lives are at odds, all the while having Christian stuff, Christian friends, and serving in a Christian Church.
- D. In ancient Israel, Lord was often used a title of respect, sometimes translated as sir. But here, it’s translated as Jehovah, the most common translation of Lord from the Old Testament.
- E. Maybe for the first time they are using this title with awe and reverence. The only problem is that the majority of their lives, they’ve been their own Lord, they’ve called their own shots, they’ve done their own thing, whatever’s been right to them in their own eyes.
 1. The startling thing about this verse is that Jesus says, “Many will say to Me, emphatically, with fiery passion and zeal, Lord, Lord, how can these things be...look at what we’ve been doing!!!”
- F. Well, it’s clear, there’s a day of reckoning ahead, a day of judgement, a day of evaluation, when everyone’s life work will be tested. And it’s here in this day, that however they’ve been able to fool others, they won’t be fooling God.
- G. They boast of being used in the gifts of the Spirit, but they don’t list any of the fruits of the Spirit. They speak of great, powerful religion, but not of true religion (**Jam. 1:27**).
- H. Three times they say that it’s, “In Your name, in Your name, in Your name” that they’ve done these great external exploits. They are presuming intimacy between them and the Lord, although it was never there to begin with. They think they’ve honored His name by using it, but in reality, they’ve degraded it, used it as a magic formula, some open says me garbage.
- I. It’s here that the question is usually raised, “Were these miracles genuine products of supernatural power, or were they simply fake news, just deception?” In my opinion, I think it’s a mixture. I think God allows certain things to happen, like in 2nd **Thessalonians 2:10-11** that because they didn’t develop a love for the truth, He’s going to give them over to strong delusion.
- J. Friends, we live in a spiritual world, a world ruled, and under the sway of the evil one, a world rigged against truth, a world led by a mirage (**Matthew 4:9; 1st John 5:19**).
 1. All throughout the Bible we have places where God has used wicked people to proclaim His message, even to prophesy who weren’t in Christ;

- a. Numbers 23:8-10, 18-24; 24:5-9, 17
- b. Revelation 2:14 (Balaam)
- c. Acts 16:16, 17 (the slave girl who prophesied and brought her master money)
- d. 2nd Corinthians 11:14 (satan transforms himself into an angel of light)
- e. John 11:45-51 (Caiaphas prophesied)
- f. Matthew 10:1; John 17:12 (Judas)
- g. Acts 19:11-20 (Itinerant Jewish exorcists)
- h. Revelation 13:11-15 (The false prophet and his power)

K. Signs and wonders, no matter how powerful they appear, aren't sufficient for salvation. We can do many great works, helping people all over the world, but if we aren't in Christ, it's worthless!

IV. INTIMACY IS THE KEY (MATT. 7:23)

1. **Matthew 7:23** *“And then I will declare to them, I never knew you: depart from Me you workers of lawlessness (iniquity)!”*
- B. There is only one true test for those that belong to Christ, and it's what they practice, or how they live. This has been Jesus' entire point throughout these past three sermons. *“Look, your practice, what you do with what you've heard will determine who you belong to. Fine words, smooth words, bright lights, big money, powerful demonstrations will never be a substitute on that final day for true deeds done in obedience to Me and in response to My teaching.”*
- C. This word KNEW is Strong's Greek word #1097 “GINOSKO” and it means, *“to know, to come to know, to know intimately, to know sexually.”* This might seem weird to consider this word this way, but He's using the most intimate word possible between Himself and others.
1. Jesus isn't being sexual with this word, He's simply meaning intimacy, deep fellowship, and understanding in the relationship.
- D. Beloved, what Jesus is describing here is a salvation issue. It's not that they are entering into the age to come with Him, just suffering a little bit of loss, it's that they aren't actually born again. They have all the Church rhetoric, but it's not saving their soul.
- E. But listen, this isn't the person who seeks to honor God but stumbles along the way. This isn't the person who goes to BED ANGRY with their spouse and dies in the night before they make up! This is a person who is PRACTICING a life without law towards Christ.
- F. They previously had something to say to Christ, “Lord, Lord, what about all this stuff we've been doing in your name.” But it's clear, Christ also has something to say to them.

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Friends, the inevitable question that arises here about salvation, and assurance needs to be addressed. Over the years no scripture has been used to strike fear into people's hearts and lives than this one.

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- B. Often times we use these verses to try and motivate people to serve God and live righteously. This is wrong and evil.
 - C. Beloved, I think that we can have assurance in our salvation. We don't have to wonder if we will hear these words from Jesus. This assurance is based a few things;
 - 1. The assurance of salvation doesn't rest in a decision we've made for Christ, either publicly, or privately. If this is the case, then your assurance is based on YOUR decision, on what YOU DID.
 - a. Our assurance of salvation rests wholly, and completely upon Christ, and His finished work on the cross.
 - 2. The assurance of our salvation rests in large part based upon the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, transforming us, from the inside out. This is what we call regeneration, where our dead spirit is made alive in Christ.
 - a. To be born again means we are changed by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Before being made new, we have a disposition that's against God. We are going in a direction opposite of Him. But, in regeneration, we are giving the power of God, the life of God, the Holy Spirit to stand in the middle of the river, and starting walking not downstream away from God, but upstream towards God. It's a new life, a new power, and new grace that before regeneration we didn't possess.
 - 3. The assurance of our salvation comes from our love for Jesus, love for the Jesus of the Bible, not cultural representation of Jesus that we've heard!
 - a. I think many in the Church love a version of Jesus that they've heard, but I think that many of those people don't actually love Jesus as He's represented in the Bible.