

Discussion Guide: May 26, 2024
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Message: I Never Knew You

PRIMARY PASSAGE: Matthew 7:21-23 (ESV)

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. 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?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHT

Jesus stresses the point that His true followers are those who not only self-identify as such, but go further to walk their talk by doing the will of God. This entails living a life of complete surrender to the Lordship of Christ and the standards of God. It goes beyond mere performance of great works to actually living like Jesus in true righteousness and holiness through the power of the Holy Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you reconcile the problem of confessing Jesus as Lord in verse 21 and the claim of Romans 10:9?
2. What do you think makes it possible for people to have the ability to do amazing things in the name of Jesus (like prophesying and casting out demons) without being His true followers? Where do they get the power to do these things?
3. In verse 23, Jesus calls these people "workers of lawlessness." What does this mean and how does it relate to the "mighty works" mentioned in verse 22?
4. What does Jesus' warning in this passage mean to you as an individual?

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, grant us all the grace we need to be true followers of Jesus from the depths of our hearts and not just with the words of our mouths. Teach us to prioritize holiness and righteousness as You do, rather than a display of good and great works. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen!