

# Matthew 7:21-29

## “Know and Obey the King”

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Jesus presumes that everyone who understands His kingdom would desire to enter. But He makes it clear in the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount that access is limited. Join us as we discover how to enter the kingdom of God.

#### Discussion Qs

1. Why is Christ's kingdom [21] better than this world?
2. How would you describe knowing Christ?
3. What are some of life's challenges that can test the foundation and reveal whether it is rock or sand?
4. How can the building foundation [rock or sand] impact the various realms of life: personal, marriage, family, career, community, and calling?

#### Jesus is our King and family

When Jesus is king, a family is built on a foundation of Christ is better able to withstand the difficulties of this life.

## Matthew 7:21-29

### “Know and Obey the King”

Intro.

**Subject:** How to enter the kingdom of God

**Object:** Know Christ and obey Him

**Context:** Sermon on the Mount. Jesus' kingdom manifesto & revelation of God's standard of holiness compels us to yield to our Savior to enter the kingdom of God.

**I. You need to know Christ [21-23] Access to the kingdom depends on it**

**Why is Christ's kingdom [21] better than this world?**

**A. Lifeless words [21, 22]** 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.

**1. Words without relationship are lifeless** Lord, Lord: Christ as Lord speaks of the nature of the relationship of a submitted follower, not merely a title.

a. **Lu. 6:46 You call Me Lord but don’t do the things that I say** (parallel passage)

**B. Lifeless works [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?’

**1. Works without obedience are lifeless:**

a. **Prophesied, cast out demons, done many wonders in the name of Christ:**

i. Works can’t save you but can be evidence that you are saved [Ja. 2, Eph. 2:8-10]

ii. God may choose to work through someone even though their heart is not yielded [Judas: Jn. 12:5-6].

b. **Jn. 6:29 This is the work of God, that you believe in Him who He sent**

**C. Life-giving relationship [22]** And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

**How would you describe knowing Christ?**

**1. An attitude of dependence upon and acts of obedience to Christ gives life**

2. Those who rebel without repenting likely have no relationship with Christ

**Jn. 10:14 I am the Good Shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.**

**Jn. 10:17 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me ...**

3. “Knowing” speaks of intimacy of relationship [Cf. knowing vs. knowing about]

**II. You need to obey Christ [24-29]** Contrast two types of builders the wise and fool

**Note:** The difference relates to the foundation, not the men or the materials

**Note:** There are only two types of building plans

**A. The wise person [24-25]**

**1. Builds on the rock [24]** Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

a. **The rock is Jesus**

i. Mt. 16:18, Ps.118:22, Is. 28:16, 1Cor. 3:9-11

**2. Building code [24]** hears these sayings of Mine, and does them

a. **The wise builder hears Jesus and obeys His teaching**

**Ja. 1:22 Be doers of the word and not hearers only deceiving yourselves**

i. Hearing and doing is evidence that you know Christ

**3. Building blessing [25]** and the rain descended, the floods came, & the winds blew & beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

a. **What is built on the rock withstands the tests of this world** survives eternally

i. **Rain, floods, winds:** sometimes like a wrecking ball smashing into your life [cancer, loss of a job, death of a loved one]; sometimes like a leaking pipe under the slab that threatens the foundation [apathy, indifference, poor communication, backsliding]

ii. The tests are inevitable [**Ja. 1:2** Count it all joy when you fall into various trials ...]

**B. The foolish person [26-27]**

**1. Builds on the sand [26]** But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

**a. The sand is anything we build our life upon other than Jesus**

i. Money, success, family, friends, self, govt, career

**2. Building code violation [26]** hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do

**a. The fool hears but does not do [does not obey]**

**3. Building burden [27]** and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.

**a. What is built on sand is temporal and will not stand**

i. **great was its fall:** great adverse consequences

ii. Sooner or later we all meet Jesus the building inspector

**C. The response to Jesus [28-29]** And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, <sup>29</sup> for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

**1. People marvel at Jesus' teaching [28]**

**a.** The Sermon on the Mount [Christ's kingdom manifesto] is the greatest teaching the world has ever heard – reveals God's glory, our sin, and the need for a Savior

**2. Jesus spoke with the authority of God [29]**

**a. Scribes** Rabbinical teachers of the Scripture would offer their views based on the commentary of rabbis who preceded them. Even prophets said, "Thus says the Lord." But Jesus spoke as God, because He is God.

**Conc.** Be wise and move the foundation of your life to Jesus. Know Christ, obey Him, build your house on the rock and enter the kingdom of God.