

A Word of Warning to Wannabe Disciples

Matthew 7:21-23

October 23, 2022

²¹ “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 who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ ”

1. Context—this comes just after Jesus warned about false prophets and good trees/fruit vs. bad trees/fruit
2. Structure—statement (21); objection (22); response (23)
 1. Statement of warning, not a **threat**
 - a. **Not** everyone universal salvation is **not** a thing
 - b. *Who says to me* Jesus is the King we will face
 - c. *Lord, Lord* knowing the right **password**
 - d. *But* there’s **hope** in this warning
 - e. *Only the one* **individual** response
 - f. *Who does* **obeys** in a practical way
 - g. *The will of my Father*, not doing their own will (John 6:38)
 - h. *Who is in the heaven(s)*, here and **now** surrounding us
 2. Objection
 - a. *Many will say* this is a **common** objection
 - b. *To me* Jesus is the King we will face
 - c. *On that day* the day of final **judgment**
 - d. *Lord, Lord* still coming with respectful words
 - e. *In your name*, using his name to make a name for themselves
 - f. *Didn’t we prophesy, cast out demons, do many miracles?*
 3. Response
 - a. *Then I will tell them plainly*, direct speech without softening it
 - b. *I never knew you*, no evidence of a **prior** relationship
 - c. *Away from me*, Jesus will have nothing more to do with them
 - d. *You evildoers*, “lawbreakers” not **doing** God’s will

On Your Own (better with others)

1. Discuss the difference between a threat and a warning? Which is Jesus giving in Matthew 7:21-23?
2. READ the following quote. Can you tell the difference in your life when you are striving to please God through your own works, or trusting God for Christ’s completed work on your behalf? Explain.

“In its religious form, works accepts the challenge of morality, conquers its obstacles through great exertion, and offers the victory to God as a payment for his approval and recompense. Faith, too, accepts the challenge of morality, but only as an occasion to become the instrument of God’s power. And when the victory comes, faith rejoices that all the glory and thanks belong to God.” <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/proud-works-vs-humble-faith>
3. READ John 6:28-29. What are the works that God requires?
4. READ 1 John 5:1-5. Discuss the following from these verses.
 - a. How can someone be born into God’s family?
 - b. Can you love God w/out loving Jesus and other believers?
 - c. How do you demonstrate that you love other Christians?
 - d. What is love for God?
 - e. Is obeying God unreasonably difficult for His children?
 - f. Who overcomes the world? (see also John 16:33).
 - g. What can we do to share in Christ’s victory?
 - h. Who is it that overcomes the world?
5. *agree/disagree – Obedience the only reliable test of a disciple.*

“Instead of asking yourself whether you believe or not, ask yourself whether you have this day done one thing because he said, Do it, or once abstained because he said, Do not do it.”