

The Sermon on the Mount

DEVOTIONAL STUDIES FROM THE
MEN'S MORNING FELLOWSHIP

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.

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?'

Matthew 7:23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

There are people who think they know Jesus Christ but are in fact still dead in their sins. They call Jesus **Lord** and can point to amazing supernatural works and wonders. But Jesus never knew them and they will be lost for all eternity.

Immediately you wonder, *How can that be? How do I know if I'm saved?*

The answer is going to be in our understanding of the little but powerful phrase, **he who does the will of My Father in heaven**. It's the person who does the will of God that is assured of his salvation.

Let's first take a look at the credentials these professing people will flash to prove they knew Jesus and try to gain entrance into Heaven.

They call Jesus **Lord**. They acknowledge His authority and the need to submit to Him. How could anyone do that and not be saved?

Liberal ministers do it all the time! By 'liberal' I don't mean in the political sense – although many liberal ministers and Christians are also political liberals.

Liberal Christians are sometimes referred to as secular, modern, or humanistic. This is an umbrella term for Protestant denominations, or churches within denominations, that view the Bible as the witness of God rather than the word of God, to be interpreted in its historical context through tools of modern critical analysis rather than by the Holy Spirit.

As a result of their approach Liberal Christianity is that which either denies or sees as unimportant the foundational truths:

1. As for the Bible, they do not think it is inspired, inerrant, and infallible. It may contain the Word of God, but it is not God-breathed.
2. As for Jesus, they do not think it essential that He was God in human flesh... Or that He rose bodily from the dead.

Then there are the non-Christian cults. They certainly call Jesus Lord but mean something very different:

1. The Mormon doctrine of God, for example, does not correspond to the Christian doctrine of the Trinity. The Mormon doctrine of God includes many gods, not one. Furthermore, Mormonism teaches that we are what God once was and are becoming what He now is. That is in direct conflict with Christian orthodoxy.
2. The JW's absolutely reject the foundational truth that Jesus is God in human flesh. They believe Jesus was a created being who then was used by God to create other things.

What about the prophecies, exorcisms, and wonders?

1. Just because a person says he is doing these things it doesn't mean they are genuine. All you have to do is watch a miracle service on Christian TV to see that what they call exorcism is just emotionalism. Often their so-called prophecies never come true. The other wonders are contrived.
2. The devil also has power. Simon the Sorcerer did things but not in the power of God. A person can be deceived by the devil into thinking you are doing the wonders of God.

3. Sometimes the Lord will use even an unbeliever to accomplish His purposes. Caiphas, the Jewish high priest at the time of Jesus' illegal trials, was used by God to prophesy.

One thing characterizes all of those who call Jesus Lord and perform wonders. It's in verse twenty-three where Jesus says that they **practice lawlessness**.

The phrase in the KJV is **workers of iniquity**. It's a quote from Psalm 6:8. I think it would be helpful to quickly read that psalm.

Psalms 6:1 To the Chief Musician. With Stringed Instruments. On An Eight-Stringed Harp. A Psalm of David. O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your anger, Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure.

Psalms 6:2 Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I *am* weak; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are troubled.

Psalms 6:3 My soul also is greatly troubled; But You, O LORD - how long?

Psalms 6:4 Return, O LORD, deliver me! Oh, save me for Your mercies' sake!

Psalms 6:5 For in death *there is* no remembrance of You; In the grave who will give You thanks?

Psalms 6:6 I am weary with my groaning; All night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with my tears.

Psalms 6:7 My eye wastes away because of grief; It grows old because of all my enemies.

Psalms 6:8 Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity; For the LORD has heard the voice of my weeping.

Psalms 6:9 The LORD has heard my supplication; The LORD will receive my prayer.

Psalms 6:10 Let all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled; Let them turn back *and* be ashamed suddenly.

Jesus quotes the psalm to indicate that He, like David, suffered but was heard of God and delivered. He was referring to the Cross. **That** is where His enemies assailed Him but God assured Him.

Now it could be that, by referring back to this psalm, Jesus was simply saying that all those who have not come to Him through the Cross will be lost no matter their outward words or works or wonders. They are still in the crowd that does not recognize Who He truly was and is, God their Savior.

And that is where the little phrase, **he who does the will of My Father in heaven**, connects. What is this will of His Father in Heaven?

John 6:40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

The will of God is for you to see Jesus lifted up on the Cross for your sins and believe in Him. It is for you to be born-again.

If you are born-again you will hold fast to the orthodox foundation of Christianity. You will say that Jesus is **Lord** and mean that He always was God the Son existing with the Father and the Spirit; that He was God in human flesh; and that He rose bodily from the dead and is alive forevermore. You will receive the Word of God as inspired, inerrant, and infallible.

