

## Matthew 7:21-23

### Verse 21

- The immediate context is regarding the false teachers. Just because they speak or claim to do things “in the name of the Lord” does not mean they are true believers or will enter the kingdom of Heaven. However, this can extend past false teachers and prophets to those who profess a love for Christ and do “religious things” in the name of the Lord that are not false teachers or prophets. A profession of faith does not save any, but a possession of faith does.

**Lord, Lord** The double usage of a word shows importance and emphasis such as is the case when our Lord says “truly, truly.” The double use of a name expresses deep and personal love and affection.

- Abraham, Abraham (Genesis 22:11)
  - Jacob, Jacob (Genesis 46:2)
  - Moses, Moses (Exodus 3:4)
  - Samuel, Samuel (1 Samuel 3:10)
  - Absalom, Absalom (2 Samuel 18:33)
  - My father, my father (2 Kings 2:12)
  - Martha, Martha (Luke 10: 41)
  - Simon, Simon (Luke 22:31)
  - Jerusalem, Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37)
  - Eli, Eli (Matthew 27:46)
  - Saul, Saul (Acts 9:4)
- Not everyone who says “Lord, Lord” in this call of affection and intimacy will be true Christians, nor will they enter the kingdom of Heaven.
    - Matthew 25:1-13 (The parable of the wise and foolish virgins)
    - Luke 13:22-28- parallel passage

### How can people cry “Lord, Lord” and not truly love Jesus and enter the kingdom of heaven?

- Being taught false doctrine by false prophets
  - Many roads to Heaven
  - Justification by death
  - Repentance not necessary, God is loving (like in the Old Testament prior to the destruction of the temple)-broad way.
- Not knowing/loving the true Jesus of the Bible
- False conversion/salvations/professions- altar calls, raise your hand to be saved, etc
  - Contrition vs attrition repentance
  - The message of the John the Baptist and Jesus was “repent”, and the message of the modern church is “repeat this and you don’t have to go to hell”
- Deceived by feelings

## The will of the Father

- We do not know the decretive will of God, but we know the preceptive will of God. His preceptive will is found in His Word in His laws and commands. His will for the true believer is sanctification (**1 Thess 4:3**) and to be conformed into the image of His Son (**Romans 8:29**) which speaks of sanctification.
- **John 14:15** “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

**Verse 22** Performing or engaging in religious activities, going to church, giving to the church, praying, be baptized, witnessing to others, preaching, teaching, being a missionary, etc does not mean that you are a Christian. The Pharisees did many “religious things” on the outside, but God knew their heart which was sinful, corrupt, evil, and without affection for Him. God knows the motives to which we perform any activity.

### **Verse 23**

- God is omniscient as He is all knowing. This verse does not mean that He doesn’t know who they are, but rather He doesn’t know them salvifically as His sheep. He knows His sheep (**John 10:27**). This knowing speaks to His foreknowing, loving, and electing His sheep from the foundation of the world.
- Those whom He does not choose to show salvific grace and love on are those that are referenced Him not knowing them. This verse also contradicts the idea that one can lose their salvation as this verse doesn’t say “I once knew you, but now,” it says I never knew them.
- Those whom He does know are told to depart from Him as they practice lawlessness.
  - **Matthew 13:40-42** So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the <sup>[a]</sup>end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom <sup>[b]</sup>all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, <sup>42</sup>and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
  - **Matthew 23:27-28** “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. <sup>28</sup>So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.
  - **Romans 6:19** I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in *further* lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.
  - **1 John 3:4** Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.
  - **Romans 4:7-8** “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, And whose sins have been covered.<sup>8</sup> “Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.”

Not everyone who says “Lord, Lord” will enter the kingdom of heaven, but those who do the will of the Father. A profession of faith does not save anyone, but a possession of faith does. “Lord, Lord” speaks of true affection for Jesus. However, those who are not true believers although they may declare they love the Lord in actuality do not love Him. How can one be sure that they are numbered among the elect? Do you love the Biblical Jesus? If we can honestly and sincerely from the depths of our souls answer that question “yes” then we must know that love for Him doesn’t come from an unregenerate heart. If we have true affection for Jesus, it is because He has removed our heart of stone and given us a new heart that beats with affection for Him via regeneration. If we love Him we will keep His commands which is the will of the Father. Only by the Spirit can we call Him Lord, Lord and mean it from the depths of our souls. One day He will not say depart, but rather will speak the most beautiful words a creature can hear which comes from **Matthew 25:34**:

*“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

