

MONDAY – The true judge



Matthew 7: 21 *Not everyone who calls Me their Lord will get into the kingdom of heaven. Only the ones who obey My Father in heaven will get in.*

Matthew 7: 22 *On the day of judgment many will call Me their Lord. They will say, "We preached in Your name, and in Your name we forced out demons and worked many miracles."*

"...who calls Me...On the day of judgement many will call Me... " Being able to see the whole Bible and so much more of Christian history than those in Jesus' day, we sometimes fail to grasp the staggering (and we know true) claims that Jesus made, that people must stand before Him on that final day of judgement, that He is the rightly called LORD. This obscure teacher in a backwater part of the world claimed to be the judge of all people!

By saying "On the day of judgement" Jesus has also drawn our attention to a coming day of judgement for all.

Consider - Spurgeon asks: What is the chief object of your life? Will you think as much of it "in that day" as you do now? Will you then count yourself wise to have so earnestly pursued it? You fancy that you can defend it now, but will you be able to defend it then, when all things of earth and time will have melted into nothingness?

"They will say..." Jesus speaks of people declaring impressive spiritual accomplishments and these are wonderful things, but they meant nothing without true fellowship, true connection with Jesus. (Enduringword.com).



Prayer: Heavenly Father, Your Word is the double-edged sword that is alive and active, it can cut through our spirits and souls and our joints and marrow until it discovers the desires and thoughts of our hearts, grant Your Guidance, Strength and Wisdom in our lives to keep our sincere and innermost eyes focused on You. AMEN

TUESDAY – Danger of verbal profession



Matthew 7: 21 *Not everyone who calls Me their Lord will get into the kingdom of heaven. Only the ones who obey My Father in heaven will get in.*

Matthew 7: 22 *On the day of judgment many will call me their Lord. They will say, "We preached in Your name, and in Your name we forced out demons and worked many miracles."*

Matthew 7: 23 *But I will tell them, "I will have nothing to do with you! Get out of my sight, you evil people!"*

John Stott points out here that the people Jesus is describing are relying on a credal affirmation for their salvation. However, Jesus insists that our final destiny will be settled by neither what we say today nor say on the last day, but by whether we do what we say; is our verbal profession accompanied by moral obedience?

Now a verbal profession of Christ is indispensable, as Paul reminds us, we must confess with our lips and believe in our hearts and true profession of Jesus as Lord is impossible without The Holy Spirit.

In this illustration of a confession from Jesus, there are important points that make it appear admirable - at least on the surface. It is polite,

addressing Him as Lord, a divine title. It is fervent as in some translations He is addressed twice. It is a public confession of allegiance to Jesus, and it is an extreme example, namely that of supernatural ministry. Furthermore, three times in the illustration they speak the name in which they have ministered, putting it first for emphasis.

And Jesus points out: everything is wrong because it is talk without truth, profession without reality and it will not save them on judgement day. He now also confesses to them, also in public, but His will be true: their confession is rejected because it concerned their lips only and not their lives.



Prayer: Heavenly Father, as we journey with You, we are made aware of the shortcomings in our lives, and we pray for strength and guidance to always expose any hidden issues to free us from guilt and regret. AMEN

WEDNESDAY – Danger of intellectual knowledge



Matthew 7: 24-27 *Anyone who hears and obeys these teachings of Mine is like a wise person who built a house on solid rock. ²⁵ Rain poured down, rivers flooded, and winds beat against that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on solid rock. ²⁶ Anyone who hears my teachings and doesn't obey them is like a foolish person who built a house on sand. ²⁷ The rain poured down, the rivers flooded, and the winds blew and beat against that house. Finally, it fell with a crash.*

John Stott moves from 'saying' and 'doing' in verses 21-23 to 'hearing' and 'doing' here in 24-27.

For a casual observer of the building activity, no difference would be noticed, that lay in the foundations which are not seen.

In the same way, professing Christians, both genuine and spurious often look alike. Jesus is not contrasting professing Christians with non-professing non-Christians, both here are members of the visible Christian

community, both hearing His words.

However, a storm of crisis or a calamity will betray what manner of person we are: 'true piety is not fully distinguished from its counterfeit till it comes to trial'. If not, then the storm of judgement day will do so.

Jesus is stressing that those who truly hear the gospel and profess faith will always obey Him, expressing their faith in their works. James reminds us that we must be 'doers of The Word, and not hearers only'.



Prayer: Heavenly Father, Your Word is a Lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path. It is our desire to put Your Word and the ways that You Jesus showed us, into actions in our lives. We pray for wisdom, discernment and guidance as we action this truth and power. AMEN

THURSDAY – Destiny of two builders



Matthew 7: 24-27 *Anyone who hears and obeys these teachings of Mine is like a wise person who built a house on solid rock. ²⁵ Rain poured down, rivers flooded, and winds beat against that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on solid rock. ²⁶ Anyone who hears My teachings and doesn't obey them is like a foolish person who built a house on sand. ²⁷ The rain poured down, the rivers flooded, and the winds blew and beat against that house. Finally, it fell with a crash.*

The storm forces that Jesus uses were the ultimate in power to generations that did not know nuclear power and He warns that the foundations of our lives will be powerfully shaken both now and in the ultimate judgement before God.

It is better that we test the foundation of our life now rather than later, at our judgement before God when it is too late to change our destiny.

Jesus may have had in mind **Proverbs 10: 25** *As the storm passes, so the wicked is no more;*

but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.

Verse 26 calls us to also be doers of The Word, and if we are not, we commit the sin that will surely find us out, the sin of doing nothing: **Numbers 32: 23** *But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against Jehovah. And be sure your sin will find you out.* (Enduringword.com)

Morgan- "The Mount of ethical enunciation reveals the need for the Mount of the Cross".



Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, as we listen and respond to Your teachings, guidance and wisdom in the Sermon on the Mount, we are again confronted with our shortcoming, and we pray for endurance to our determination and Your grace for our insufficiency in walking in Your ways. AMEN

FRIDAY – Miracles despite their heart



Matthew 7: 21 *Not everyone who calls Me their Lord will get into the kingdom of heaven. Only the ones who obey my Father in heaven will get in.*

Matthew 7: 22 *On the day of judgment many will call me their Lord. They will say, "We preached in Your name, and in Your name we forced out demons and worked many miracles."*

Matthew 7: 23 *But I will tell them, "I will have nothing to do with you! Get out of my sight, you evil people!"*

Gotquestions.org addresses the question of who those could be that could preach, expel demons, and perform miracles in Jesus' name and yet He does not know them and dismisses them.

Worth noting here is that Jesus is not breaking off an existing relationship, He makes it known that there was no relationship to break, Christ did not dwell in their hearts, and they did not have His mind. (1 Corinthians 2: 16).

The question then arises; how do we explain their ability to perform miracles? Two possibilities exist. That the miracles are done by the power of Satan, staging such

phenomena for the purpose of creating fear in onlookers and causing them to trust in herbs, incantations, and such, and as was witnessed when the 'magicians' of Egypt opposed Moses performing miracles before the Pharaoh, Exodus 7: 11.

Secondly, it is possible that God, in His sovereign will and for His purposes will empower unbelievers to perform miraculous deeds as was the example of Judas Iscariot who was part the 6 pairs of disciples sent out to preach, heal and cast out demons, Luke 9: 1-6. This despite the condition of his heart.



Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for Your truth and love that seeks and finds what dwells in our hearts, and that with care and persistence, making available Your Word and a lifetime of opportunity to journey closer and closer to You. AMEN