

I Go to Church so I'm Good with God

Matthew 7:21-23

"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 in heaven." - Matthew 7:21

Main Point: Faith and obedience are two sides of the same coin. The true test of genuine faith is the obedience that flows from it.

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Who is the most famous person you've met?

Who is the most famous person who knows you? Why is this question different from the first one?

We like to have a list of qualifications that makes someone a Christian: if they go to church, are nice to people, can talk like a person who knows Jesus, etc. However, all of these things can be learned and performed without actually having a relationship with Christ. The real question is not so much if you know Jesus but if Jesus knows you. When Jesus knows you, obedience flows from your faith in Him.

What makes us good with God is:

1) **NOT WHAT WE SAY. Read Matthew 7:21.**

Why is calling Jesus Lord not enough to enter the kingdom of heaven? What should the natural response in our lives be when we call Him Lord?

Have you called on Jesus as Lord of your life? If so, what do you need to consider if you anticipate being in heaven with Him? Does this give you pause, or give you peace?

Read **James 1:22-25; 2:26**. How do these verses convey the same message? Looking back on your life do you remember a time when you heard God's word, or spoke it to someone else, then turned around and did the opposite?

2) **NOT WHAT WE DO. Read Matthew 7:22.**

Why is doing the same things Jesus does not enough to please the Father? What distinction is Jesus drawing between himself and these people who do good works?

Malachi 3:17-18 speak of “that day” mentioned here. Read these verses and discuss the similarity of this prophesy and what Jesus is saying.

Read **Romans 4:13-17**. What does Paul say here was the key to Abraham receiving the promise of God? What message does he have for those who try to live out the law?

Have there been times in your life that you tried to “do” this thing called faith instead of just living in it and being obedient? If you’re doing this study guide, you probably attend church. Why isn’t this enough?

3) **WHEN WE HAVE FAITH IN JESUS. Read Matthew 7:23.**

Jesus is actually quoting David from **Psalms 6:8** here. What does Jesus call those who have done works in His name? Why would He have described them as such?

The greatest blessing in life and eternity is to know the Lord personally and to be known in the same way by Him. The greatest curse is to have this relationship denied. What does **Ephesians 2:8-9** say is the beginning of being “known” by Jesus, the one who will eventually be our judge?

Do you really believe in His great love for you and His faithfulness to see you through life's greatest challenges? Do you really believe **Romans 8:38-39**?

Apply It:

Matthew [7:13-29](#) is the closing section of the Sermon on the Mount and its gospel application. Here are two gates, two ways, two destinations, and two groups of people ([vv. 13, 14](#)); two kinds of trees and two kinds of fruit ([vv. 17-20](#)); two groups at the judgment ([vv. 21-23](#)); and two kinds of builders, building on two kinds of foundations ([vv. 24-28](#)). Christ is drawing the line as clearly as possible between the way that leads to destruction and the way which leads to life. On which side of the line do you stand?

Pray:

Father, lead us in your ways and trust in our faith alone for salvation. Help us put aside our pride and selfish ambitions to seek you alone in all we do. May Your Kingdom come and Your will be done.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

Nov. 19th - The Lord’s Supper

Nov 29th - Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

Dec. 3rd - VillageKids Happy Birthday Jesus

Dec. 10th - A Village Christmas