

TRUTH B-P CHURCH
Adult Sunday School

SERMON ON THE MOUNT (III)

LESSON THREE: DOING GOD'S WILL

I. PASSAGE

Matthew 7:21-23, “²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

II. INTRODUCTION

We live in a dangerous world because it is full of spiritual darkness. Sinful men have been deceived and seduced by the god of this world to go against the one living and true God. They rebelled against Him. They worshipped false gods and make sacrifices to them. They either deny His existence or conform Him into a created image.

If not for God's grace and mercy, no one can be saved. As such, those whom God has called before the foundation of the world are drawn to Him for salvation through the preaching of the gospel and by the Holy Spirit's leading. And they became salt of the earth and light of the world in this world full of spiritual darkness. They became known as a distinct group called Christians. However, Satan has also turned himself into an angel of light. He sends forth his followers to penetrate through among the Christians as “wolves in sheep's clothing.” Their purpose is to deceive and seduce Christians away from the true God of the Bible by corrupting their understanding of God and His will.

If the right understanding of who God is according to the Bible is corrupted by deception and falsehood, what's left is a distorted understanding and knowledge of God. The wrong God cannot save. Moreover, wrong teaching will lead to wrong application. How will a true believer know God and His will rightly? This is what we are going to learn in this lesson. May God help us.

III. THE TRUE BELIEVER WILL DO GOD'S WILL (verse 21)

The local church is a place where believers gather to worship God and serve Him. However, the local church is made up of true believers, professing believers, and false believers. Though unbelievers may also be found in the local church because they have been invited to come and hear the gospel, they do not belong to the church.

And here in verse 21, the Lord Jesus reveals to us that the mark of a true Christian. He is one who does God's will. The true believer will do God's will. How can it be otherwise? The true believer knew God rightly. He has learnt and still learning and receiving the knowledge of God according to the Bible. The more he knows God, the more he knows what is required of him as a child of God. The Bible is God's revealed will. As such, the true believer will have the desire to do God's will by obeying God in His Word.

A true believer will not continue to live his life in sin. He will repent and live according to God's will. Yes, he may struggle because of the weakness of the flesh, but the inclination is always toward God because he is already a new man. The old man is crucified with Christ, and he is no longer under the condemnation of God's law. He has become a new creature. He is now a new man with a new desire to do God's will.

Anyone by calling the Lord Jesus “Lord, Lord” does not make them a believer. Yes, the true believer will call the Lord Jesus “Lord” because this is truly the representation of the new relationship they had together now. The name “Lord” means master. And anyone by acknowledging Jesus as Lord means he is a servant or a slave. But there are those who pay lip service by calling Jesus “Lord.” They did not really acknowledge Him as their Master. And since the Lord can see through the heart, He knew their hypocrisy and pretence in them. Since they are false believers, they will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Only true believer will enter the kingdom of heaven. And only true believers will do God’s will.

IV. THE FALSE BELIEVER WILL DO THEIR OWN WILL (verse 22)

Why will there be many who will call the Lord Jesus “Lord, Lord” in that day? This day is the day of judgment. It is a day whereby all sinners will have to stand before the Lord Jesus Christ to account for all their sins. In their fear of eternal punishment, some of them began to plead with Christ, and give much evidence why they deserve to go heaven and not end up in hell. By their plea, it reveals their misconception of what is a true believer.

They thought that they deserve heaven because they had done many things in Christ’s Name. They prophesied, cast out demons, and have done many wonderful works in His Name. But the Lord knows their heart and motives. They were doing their own will, and not God’s will. It is not a sin at all to prophesy, cast out demons and do many wonderful works in Christ’s Name. However, it is a sin to do all these not according to God’s will. They may have done all this with selfish motives, for themselves and not for God’s glory.

V. THE FALSE BELIEVER WILL NOT BE KNOWN BY CHRIST (verse 23)

And coming before the final judgment in the end, they still stick to their pride, and fail to realize that all that they do must be done according to God’s will, and not theirs. While expecting the Lord Jesus to accept their reasoning, His reply to them should serve as a warning to us while we are still living. There are three parts in His reply.

“I never knew you” was the first part of the Lord’s reply. The word “knew” is not the absence of knowledge. It does not mean ignorant. It does not refer to cognitive knowledge. This “knew” is a word that describes an intimate relationship between two parties. What the Lord meant here is that there is no good relationship between them at all. The relationship is still broken. They had not trusted in Him for salvation. They trusted in their own will and pride. The false believer will not be known by Christ. Such a reply should frighten us who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ. To be known by Christ, we must know Him rightly and faithfully obey Him and His will.

“Depart from Me” was the second part of the Lord’s reply. This departure is eternal. The door of grace will forever close. While on earth, though many have rejected Christ or have followed Him with sinful motives, the door of grace and mercy is still opened to them. The opportunity for them to repent is when they are still living on this earth. But the time will come when the door of grace will close, and all will have to stand before Christ in judgment. Again, it is a frightening reply that anyone will receive because the separation will be eternal. The place of judgment that has been reserved for those who will be separated from Him for eternity is the Lake of Fire.

“Ye that work iniquity” was the last part of the Lord’s reply. This will bring disappointment and shock to all those who take pride in what they did while they were still living on earth. All that they work so hard is equivalent to iniquity. Iniquity means “transgression of the law” and “wickedness.” The work done may not be sinful or wrong. All it takes is a wrong motive. All it takes is the failure to do God’s will.

Will you do God’s will? Will you be known by Him? May God help us. Amen.