

I Never Knew You – Jesus (Part 3)

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Matthew 7:21-29

Matthew 7:21–23, *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”*

How do we become self-deceived? What is an unsaved Christian?

1. **The unsaved Christian has a false understanding of assurance.**
 - a. We deny the possibility of appearing saved but being lost (**Matthew 13:20-22**)
2. **The unsaved Christian fails to examine himself.**
 - a. We have a faulty understanding of grace if we believe we can go through life as believers and not be concerned about sin (**1 Corinthians 11:28-30**).
3. **The unsaved Christian focuses on a historical experience rather than present realities.**
 - a. A true Christian believes in the true Christ (**1 John 1:1-4; 5:21**)
 - b. A true Christian is concerned with present sin (**1 John 1:5-2:2**)
 - c. A true Christian is obedient to God’s word (**1 John 2:3-6**)
 - d. A true Christian loves his Christian brothers and sisters (**1 John 2:7-11**)
 - e. A true Christian will reject the world (**1 John 2:15-17**)
 - f. A true Christian will discern of Biblical truth (**1 John 2:18-27, esp vs. 23**)
 - g. A true Christian will practice true righteousness (**1 John 2:28-3:10**)
 - h. A true Christian has confidence before God (**1 John 3:19-24**)
 - i. A true Christian practices and receives answers to prayer (**1 John 5:14-17; 3:22**)
4. **The unsaved Christian focuses intently on religious activity and the traditions of men.**
5. **The unsaved Christian can believe the “scales” philosophy.** (Simply, “I got more good stuff, than bad)
6. **The unsaved Christian can live on the surface or be superficial.**

I. **The Two Categories**

A. **The Verbal Professor (Matthew 7:21-23)**

1. The self-deceived individual professes the “*Lord*” without obedience.
Luke 6:46, *“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”*
2. The self-deceived individual uses His “name” without knowledge.
The saved person does not just “claim” the Lord’s name, but does the Father’s will!
 - a) **John 8:31**, *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,*
 - b) **John 6:66–69**, *After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. 67 So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” 68 Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, 69 and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”*
 - c) **Colossians 1:21–23**, *And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.*
 - d) **1 Timothy 4:16; Hebrews 3:14; Hebrews 10:38-39; 1 John 2:19**
3. The self-deceived individual professes his works in the day of judgment (22).
The verbal professor may have God’s name in his mouth, but rebellion is in his heart!
4. The self-deceived is never “known”

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- a) To know – “to come together” a Hebrew idiom that represented intimate relations, frequently marital relations. (The Good Shepherd knows his sheep intimately, see **John 10:1-14**)
 - 5. The self-deceived “practices lawlessness.” The verb tense indicates continuous, regular action, a lifelong pattern of sin in the unforgiven person’s life. (Matt 7:18) So, how did they do the “works” (**Matthew 7:22**)
 - a) It may be that they were allowed by God’s power to do these things.
 - (1) The false prophet Balaam (Numbers 23:5)
 - (2) King Saul (1 Sam 10:10)
 - (3) High Priest Caiaphas (John 11:51)
 - b) It may be that the acts were accomplished by Satan’s power (Matthew 24:24; Sons of Sceva (Acts 19:13-14; Acts 8:11; Mark 9:38-40; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10)
 - c) It may be that the claims were just false. (Fake miracles)
 - B. The Intellectual Believer (Matthew 7:24-27)**
 - 1. There are two groups
 - a) Those who hear and obey (7:24)
 - b) Those who hear and disobey (7:26)
 - (1) Just hearing, knowing, and recognizing God’s word are not enough to please God.
 - (2)
 - 2. The similarities
 - a) Both groups hear the gospel. (7:24,26)
 - b) Both build a house
 - (1) The wise – “build on these words of mine.
 - (2) The foolish – hear and acknowledge but don’t do
 - c) Both built in the same location and get hit by the same storm.
 - d) Both built the same kind of house.
 - 3. The differences
 - a) One acts on the Word of God, and one does not. (rock vs. sand)
 - b) **James 1:22–24**, *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.*
 - c) The only true validation of salvation is a life of obedience.

II. The Response to the Sermon (Matthew 7:28-29)

- A. Astonishment (amazed, astounded, dumbfounded)
 - 1. Straightforward truth
 - 2. Denounced the way of the Pharisees
 - 3. Taught as one having authority.
- B. No recorded decisions...
 - 1. No decision is a “no” decision.