

Am I really a Christian?



Your Not A Christian Just Because You Say You Are

Matthew 7.7-29
(Emphasis on Vss. 21-23)

Main Idea

We are not the Judge, Christ is the Judge of our salvation...we must be actively trusting in His work for us, not in our work for Him.

Overview

I. Sermon on the Mount

- Jesus is focusing on RAISING the bar (not lowering it)
 - Blessed are poor in spirit, those who are persecuted, etc.
 - You say those who murder...I say, those who have anger, etc.
- This chapter is the close of that sermon

II. Ask, Seek, Knock (Vss. 7-11)

- Those who ask will receive
- Those who seek will find
- Those who knock will be answered

III. Do to others as you would have them do to you...enter the narrow gate (Vss. 12-14)

- Treat others the way you would want them to treat you
 - This is the Law and the Prophets
- Enter the Narrow Gate
 - Few will enter it
 - Life is hard that leads to life
- Do not enter the gate that is wide
 - Many will enter it
 - Life there is easy

IV. A Tree bears fruit in keeping with its kind (Vss. 15-20)

- You will be recognized by your fruit
 - If you produce dead fruit you can be sure that is a picture of your heart
 - Likewise, the same is true if you are producing fruit that is alive

V. Build your house on a solid foundation to withstand trials (Vss. 24-27)

- If you build on a solid foundation it can withstand the torrents
- If you build on a shifting foundation your faith will not be able to stand
 - Jesus taught as one with authority (Vs. 28-29)

VI. Not everyone who says “Lord, Lord” will enter the Kingdom (Vss. 21-23)

- Calling Him Lord and doing things (even amazing things!) does not equate to salvation
- Jesus demands to be the Judge: He allows those to Enter who KNOW Him
 - Christ did not Know them
 - Christ Knows who are His own (John 10.14)
 - To Know is to be intimate, not just to know about (see Matt. 1.25)
- The way to Know Him is to Ask, Seek, Knock...and He will answer:
 - He has made a way through His work (not ours)
 - The Judge has become the Advocate (Justification)
 - Trust Him and His work, not You and your work

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Name some things that would say in name they are a fan, citizen, employee, etc. of something but in fact they are not at all related to those things in any meaningful way.*

1. Read Matthew 5:17-20, 21-23, 27-28, 31-32, 33-34, 38, 39. Based on these verses, what is Jesus doing in the Sermon on the Mount? What is the point of ramping up people’s understanding of the Law?
2. What is God like in verses 7-11? How is the wide & narrow gate described in verses 12-14? Why is the way “hard” to the narrow gate and therein why is it few will enter? Why is it “easy” to get into the wide gate and therein why will many enter it?
3. Using verses 15-20 & verses 24-27, how does our life reflect what we really believe?
4. What is the appeal for salvation in verses 21-22? What is it about these claims that Jesus rejects?
5. Why does simply not self-identifying as a Christian not enough, even if there is some really great things that go with it?
6. How does one get “known”?
7. Discuss how the Gospel relates to verses 21-23 with the lenses of Justification (See Romans 4 for explanation of Justification).
8. How can we know that we are known? What role does community play in this?

Accountability Question: *What are some things that you are tempted to rely on for your salvation apart from Christ? Or, how do you exude yourself as the Judge of your own salvation instead of Christ?*