

Does Jesus Know You?

Matthew 7.21-23

Overview

- **Who is Jesus? Both Lord and Judge**
 - v. 21: Not everyone who says to ME, Lord, Lord
 - v. 22: On that day many will say to ME, Lord, Lord
 - v. 23: I will declare...depart from ME you workers of lawlessness:
 - Christ places Himself in the position of Judge
 - The proper designation of “Lord” is attributed to Him
 - He is able to send people to their proper designation:
 - Matthew 25.31-33: Christ, the Son of Man, separates Sheep & Goats
 - He is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of a mans heart
 - (Workers of Lawlessness)
 - He is the one that must know us, not us know Him

- **What is expected of us? Love and Obey Jesus**
 - v. 24: Jesus says that we are to listen and obey Jesus
 - These people seem to have done that? (v. 22)
 - For Jesus to declare them ‘workers of lawlessness’ must mean something is missing
 - The lead in to this passage spoke of being warned of false prophets who come in sheep’s clothing:
 - The false prophets could have ‘prophesied’, ‘cast out demons’, and ‘did might works’ in Jesus’ Name
 - Evidently for these workers to be called “lawless” meant they were false prophets in that their apparent ‘fruit’ was really dead because it didn’t proceed from the ‘good tree’...the tree that had life:
 - Mark 7.18-21a illustrates that what comes out comes from the heart
 - Jesus is most interested in the heart that drives the actions, not just the actions themselves

- **What has Jesus done? He obeyed the Law for us in Love**
 - The Great Command to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength” (Matt. 22.37) is not being obeyed by these people in this passage and that is what is then expected for all to have life after the Judgment
 - The Gospel is that Christ obeyed the Law (He was Law FULL, not Law LESS) perfectly IN LOVE...it proceeded from Love (Matt. 5.17, 7.12)
 - Note: 1 Cor. 13.1-2 and Matt. 28.18-20

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Describe the picture of Jesus here in these last few texts of the Sermon on the Mount. In what ways is it enlightening? Encouraging?*

1. Read Matthew 7.7-27. With a specific focus on verses 21-23, describe the picture of Jesus in this passage. In what ways does Jesus position Himself as a Judge? Lord? Where do you see that in the text? What implications does this have on our life?
2. Given the context of the passage, why might Jesus conclude these people who do great things in the Lord’s name are ‘workers of lawlessness’ and not known by Christ?

3. In light of Christ's judgment, what then is expected of us? How do you know?
4. Why do you think Jesus would say such polarizing words?
5. How can we be sure that Jesus knows us?
6. What did Jesus do for us? How do you see this here in Matthew 7?
7. In what way does do these last few passages encourage you? Concern you?
8. Identify evidences of grace in those around you that confirm they are workers of lawfulness and not lawlessness.

Accountability Question: *What are some areas of 'coolness' of your heart that need accountability and prayer?*

Pray for those in your life that this passage likely describes.

Use question #7 here if you didn't do it in large group.