

Only One Lord

SCRIPTURE 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. 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?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. ★ Read Matthew 7:21 and Luke 6:46. To cry “Lord, Lord” is significant! This is orthodox, high Christology, acknowledging there is only one Lord: Jesus. In the context of Matthew 7, why is there no guarantee of kingdom entrance to those crying out to Christ?

2. Since Jesus says, “Not everyone who says to **me**, ‘Lord, Lord,’” we might expect to hear, “but the one who does **my** will.” Read John 4:34, John 5:30, John 6:38, and Luke 22:42. Why is the will of the Father now intertwined with the will of the Son in Matthew 7:21?

3. Read Matthew 21:28-32 and John 6:40. What exactly is doing the will of the Father?

4. ★ Read the following verses and discuss with your group the many problems with the idea that Jesus is teaching salvation by works in this passage (Matthew 7:21-23). Consider Romans 3:10-11, Ecclesiastes 7:20, Ephesians 2:1, and Job 14:4.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

5. What we need is a new nature. Christians exist to make much of Christ. But this begins inwardly. Making much of Him outwardly is worth little if it is not from our hearts. Is obedience the fruit or the root of loving God?

Read and discuss the following passages. How does God enable us to do His will for His glory and our joy? How does this personally apply to your life when recognizing there is nothing from your own self that can obey God's will righteously? Consider John 3:3, John 3:5, Romans 8:9, Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:8, and Titus 3:14.

6. Read Matthew 7:22, Mark 9:38, Matthew 24:24, and Matthew 15:8. What is the fundamental problem with these people doing mighty miracles in the name of Jesus? Notice that none of these things that Jesus mentions in Matthew 7:22 are sinful actions.

7. Jesus declares to these workers of lawlessness, "I never knew you." He does not say, "I know longer know you," "I forgot who you are," or "You never knew me." Christ effectively strips us of every conventional ground of assurance to leave us with only one hope: Him. He does not say, "Your righteousness does not exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees; depart from me." But this is what we may have expected from Matthew 5:20. Instead, we hear something about our relationship with Christ. Read John 10:27, John 17:3, and Matthew 5:17. How does the righteousness of Christ relate to those truly knowing Him? How can you depend on the righteousness of Christ in your life?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

8. ★ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the martyr writes, “Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance ... cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.” Charles Spurgeon said, “The Lord cannot endure the presence of those who call him ‘Lord, Lord’, and then work iniquity.”

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Romans 6:16, and 1 Peter 1:2. What does it practically mean to have Jesus as Savior and **Lord**? How is Christ **Lord** of your life? Because regenerate hearts still sin in this world, how do they deal with their sin?
