

## **Bible Readings**

### **Ezekiel 33:30-33**

<sup>30</sup> “As for you, son of man, your people are talking together about you by the walls and at the doors of the houses, saying to each other, ‘Come and hear the message that has come from the LORD.’ <sup>31</sup> My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to hear your words, but they do not put them into practice. Their mouths speak of love, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain. <sup>32</sup> Indeed, to them you are nothing more than one who sings love songs with a beautiful voice and plays an instrument well, for they hear your words but do not put them into practice.

<sup>33</sup> “When all this comes true—and it surely will—then they will know that a prophet has been among them.”

### **Matthew 7:21-23**

#### **True and False Disciples**

<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and, in your name, perform many miracles?’ <sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

## Sermon "Words are not enough"

We're continuing our series on the **Sermon on the Mount**.

Let's ask for **God's understanding** before we begin.

Let's pray...

### Intro

- In our look at the Sermon on the Mount, 2 weeks ago, Jesus said there were **two gates** to choose from - a **wide gate** leading to a **wide way to destruction** - and a **narrow gate** leading to a **narrow way to eternal life**. He wants us to **choose the narrow gate** - that's the START of our **life of faith in Jesus**
- Then in our Bible passage last week **Jesus said** there are **two types of trees** - a **good tree** producing **good fruit** - and a **bad tree** producing **bad fruit**. He wants us to be a **good tree** and produce **good fruit**. The **trees** indicate our **spiritual GROWTH** in our **life of faith in Jesus**
- Now this week - in Matthew 7:21-23 - [[Please turn there now](#)] Jesus talks about the **END** of our **life of faith in Jesus**.
- And Jesus makes **4 outrageous claims!**

[PowerPoint 1-Heading]

### Outrageous Claims

[PowerPoint 1a-Claim #1]

1. 1<sup>st</sup> outrageous claim - Jesus says in v22 "**Many will say to me on that day**" - what day is Jesus talking about?

- Jesus is talking about the **Day of Judgment** - and He's saying He will be the One judging everyone
- Imagine what His listeners on the mountainside are **thinking?**
- Jesus this travelling rabbi and teacher is saying He will be the judge on that final judgment day - the judge that we all must face
- The Old Testament is full of examples when God exercises His **judgment over wrong doing:**
  - He sent a **universal flood** in Noah's day because of humankind's sin and rebellion
  - He rained down sulphur on Sodom and Gomorrah because of their wickedness
  - And He sent plagues on Pharaoh and Egypt - because they would not release God's people, the Israelites, from slavery
- So, Jesus' listeners are familiar with God being the Judge
- But here in Matthew 7:21-23 - Jesus is saying He is the Judge
- Jesus says in John 5:22 - the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son.
- Jesus, the Son, has such a close relationship with God the Father - that the Father allows Jesus to be The Judge
- This is an outrageous claim to the people listening - Jesus is judge of all people - no wonder Jesus began chapter 7 saying - Do not judge or you too will be judged
- We must all face Jesus the Judge on that last day (Hebrews 9:27)

[PowerPoint 1b-Claim #2]

2. 2<sup>nd</sup> outrageous claim - In v21 - People may call Jesus, "Lord", but may not be saved.

People may refer to Jesus as Lord, but they have not made Him Lord of their life. The reason Jesus will reject them is their claim for Him as Lord was verbal and not moral. It concerned their lips only and not their life.

They called Jesus "Lord, Lord" but never submitted to His lordship over their life nor have they obeyed the will of His Heavenly Father.

The people Jesus is referring to are those who call Him Lord but don't genuinely believe in Him. The vital difference is "saying" Jesus is Lord but they are not "showing" He is Lord. As we said last week - Christians will be recognized by the fruit that grows on their spiritual tree.

Even people today, may learn big religious words - like sanctification or justification - they may memorize many Bible verses - and memorize many hymns - even recite the Lord's Prayer off by heart - and yet not obey God's word. Their life is a pretense - a façade. As Jesus Himself says in John 14:15 "If you love me, keep my commands"

[PowerPoint 1c-Claim #3]

3. 3<sup>rd</sup> outrageous claim - see v22 again - People can prophesy in Jesus' name or drive out demons in Jesus' name or perform miracles in Jesus' name - but may not be saved. That's because people will stand before Jesus on the last day with an impressive list of spiritual accomplishments - prophecies, driving

out demons and performing miracles. But they do not have a true heartfelt relationship with Jesus; they don't have fellowship with Him or a true connection with Him. They are just using His name to do these impressive things - without loving Him. The apostle Paul warns in these last days - Satan will use "lying wonders" to deceive people (2 Thessalonians 2:7-12)

#### [PowerPoint 1d-Claim #4

4. 4<sup>th</sup> outrageous claim - Jesus may say to people, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoer". These are the worst words we could ever hear from Jesus - "I never knew you - away from me, you evildoer".

No-one wants to hear these words - because it means - we will be separated from Jesus forever - in Hell.

Why is Jesus saying this to these people?

Because their faith is not genuine - they call Jesus Lord - but He's not their personal Lord - they perform all sorts of amazing things in His Name - but they don't have a proper relationship with Him - and they don't do the Father's will.

Not just words but also ...

So, what are we to make of these outrageous claims?

Where does it leave us this morning?

How do we know what Jesus will say to us on That Day? On that Judgement Day?

Look at v21 again:

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **only the one who does the will of my Father** who is in heaven

Only the people who do the will of God the Father will enter the Kingdom of Heaven?

What's the will of the Father?

Let's explore the will of the Father now

[PowerPoint 2-Heading]

Here are four things that are the will of the Father

[PowerPoint 2a-1<sup>st</sup>]

1. 1<sup>st</sup> - The will of the Father is to have genuine faith in Jesus. As Jesus says in John 6:40: "For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and **believes** in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day".

And as the Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 10:9-10 - <sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> **For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified,** and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

So, our faith has to be personal and heartfelt. Jesus didn't just die for sins to be forgiven - He died for my sins and your sins to be forgiven. It's not just an historical fact that Jesus died on that cross - it has to be personal for each individual.

[PowerPoint 2b-2<sup>nd</sup>]

2. 2<sup>nd</sup> - The will of the Father is that we are to be born again and have the Holy Spirit living within us. In John 3 Jesus explained to Nicodemus "No one can see the Kingdom of God **unless they are born again, born from above, born of the Holy Spirit**" (John 3:3, 5, 7, 8).

The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 5:5 when we genuinely believe in Jesus - "God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, **who has been given to us**".

And in **Romans 8:9** Paul says "if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ"

The Apostle Paul also reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12:3: "... I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and **no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit**".

[PowerPoint 2c-3<sup>rd</sup>]

3. The will of the Father is that we show genuine love to God and to others. Jesus summarised the 10 commandments into 2 commandments. In Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus says: <sup>37</sup> "**Love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: '**Love your neighbour as**

**yourself. <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.**

So, Jesus is saying the **commandments** are simply to love God and love others.

The people Jesus is referring to who were prophesying and driving out demons and performing miracles - were doing these things - without love.

In our Old Testament passage from **Ezekiel 33:31** - God says the mouths of the people speak of love but their hearts are greedy and unjust.

As the Apostle Paul reminds us in the **love passage** of **1 Cor 13:1-3**

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, **but do not have love**, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, **but do not have love**, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, **but do not have love, I gain nothing.**

So, for example, if someone comes to church looking for food or clothing - and I say "here's some food and clothes - but don't be such a bludger next time - get yourself a job" - **I've helped them** by giving them what they needed - but I've shown no love - I haven't listened to them, I haven't talked to them, I haven't prayed with them and I haven't encouraged them - and I have **gained nothing in God's eyes!**

[PowerPoint 2d-4<sup>th</sup>]

4. 4<sup>th</sup> - **The will of the Father is to respond to His Word in obedience and good works** - When we come to believe in Jesus and **as we read God's Word,**

**James 1:22** says: Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says

It's not enough to come to church week after week and hear preachers proclaim the word of God. Lots of people hear God's word; far fewer respond to it. James 1 goes on to say "Don't think merely listening to God's word is enough. You need to respond to it because faith, that is real faith, acts on what it knows to be true."

James is not saying we are saved by faith in Jesus plus the good works we do. What he is saying, is that genuine faith, responds with good works. Words are not enough. Genuine faith responds to God's word in obedience.

Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead faith (James 2:17)

The people of Israel in our OT passage from Ezekiel 33 they: heard God's word from Ezekiel but didn't put it into practice -

And John says in 1 John 2: 3-6 <sup>3</sup> We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. <sup>4</sup> Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. <sup>5</sup> But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: <sup>6</sup> Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

So, our response - as we live out our faith in Jesus - is to model our lives on Jesus - and be His ambassadors in all we say and all we do!

## Conclusion

To finish up then.

As we think about God's will for us

- To have **genuine faith in Jesus**
- To be **born of the Holy Spirit**
- To show **genuine love to God and to one another**
- And to **respond to His Word in obedience and good works**

[PowerPoint 3-Conclusion]

The way forward for us is to 2 things:

[PowerPoint 3a-examine]

1) 1<sup>st</sup> - let's **examine our hearts** - ask God to **search our hearts** and **see if there is any offensive way in us** (Psalm 139:23-24) - that we need to repent of.

Ask God to show us where we are being unloving - ask God to show us where we are being disobedient to His word - and ask God to show us where we are not acting on His Word.

[PowerPoint 3b-love]

2) 2<sup>nd</sup> - we are to **show love to one another** as Jesus says in John 13:34-45

<sup>34</sup> "A new command I give you: **Love one another.** As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> **By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**"

Is there a neighbour we could be **helping** or encouraging?

Is there someone in our church family we could be **praying for** or visiting or phoning or sending a card of encouragement to?

Is there someone we could be **inviting to church** so they can hear about Jesus?

Is there someone we could be **sharing the message of Jesus** with?

Is there some way we could be **servicing here at church** - and we're putting it off?

By all of these types of things - **Jesus says** - people will know we are genuine  
disciples of Him - and **our actions will match our words that "we are a Christian"**.

Let's pray...