

Are You A Professer or a Possessor?

A sermon by Pastor Byron Chesney 04-04-2021 Easter Sunday Morning

Matthew 7:21-23: Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

The opening text are the words of the Lord Jesus; if you have a red-letter edition of the King James Bible then these words are written in red to remind us of that fact. While every word in the Bible is of equal importance, I believe when we see words directly spoken by Jesus that we should pay very close attention. He has never spoken a needless word.

The occasion these words were spoken was during Jesus' **Sermon on the Mount**. He was addressing a large multitude of people, and his disciples on the side of a mountain; teaching the ways of the LORD and about the Kingdom to come. He had covered many topics during this sermon, such things as adultery, marriage, divorce, revenge, how to pray, how to judge or not judge, about the fruit of a true Christian, about false prophets, but as He brings the sermon to an end, He sends out a very strong warning to all that are listening.

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;...

The word "**Lord**" as used here is taken from the Greek word "**Koo-Ree-Os**" which means "**The Supreme authority, the Master, the Owner.**" It is recognition that the person you are addressing that way, has no other authority above him.

But Jesus says; **Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;...**

I want to show you something from the Bible so that you get a very clear understanding of this. Turn with me to **Matthew 26:20-25:** Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve. 21 And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. 22 And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? 23 And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. 24 The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born. 25 Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said.

Did you pay attention? Did you see where the Bible said in verse 22 that "**every one of them**" said unto Him, **Lord is it I?** Every One of them called him **Lord, Koo-Ree-Os**. Then in verse 25 Judas even called him "**Master**."

Listen, Judas Iscariot walked beside Jesus. He ate his meals along with Jesus. He was there during the miracles that Jesus performed. He was there when Jesus taught the truths of the Kingdom and the fruits of salvation. He was part of a select group of individuals that were fortunate enough to be part of Jesus' earthly ministry. He was even the treasurer of the group. And while Judas called Jesus "Lord" and he called him "Master," I'm here to tell you this morning that Judas Iscariot is burning in Hell at this very moment. – **he was a professer but not a possessor.**

Jesus said: **Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;...**

And to make perfectly sure that he was not misunderstood he even went on to describe these people: **22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?**

Did you see that in verse 22 he said "**Many will say to me in THAT day.**" **What day?** you may ask; that day when we must appear before Him and give account of ourselves. I want to say to you this morning that there is coming a day when every man and woman that has ever been born will stand before a Holy and righteous Judge: **Romans 14:12:** So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Our judge, the One in whom we will be judged by is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 2:16: In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

John 5:22: For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgement unto the Son.

There will be people (and the Bible says "**Many**") standing before the righteous judge and they will assume that because they had done some kind of good work or went through some kind of religious routine or religious steps that they are assured into Heaven. They assume because they did these things in the name of Jesus that it solidified their position in Heaven.

They assume because they pastored a Church, or taught a Sunday school class, or led the singing, or sang specials, or went on visitation, gave to missions, had perfect attendance at Church that they were alright with God. Hey, if you are trusting in anything that you have done to get you into Heaven then I want to say to you this morning that you are on your way to Hell!

I'll even go as far as to say if you are trusting in some little prayer that you said one time, or a trip to an altar somewhere, or some decision you made, that if these things did not bring a change in your life and gave you a desire to make the Lord Jesus the Lord of your life then you were never truly converted. We need to make sure we have truly been converted.

The Bible says in **2 Corinthians 13:5:** Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

The Bible also says in **2 Peter 1:10:** Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: – **Are you a professer or a possessor?**

Let's remember that the Bible is very clear that many are on the broad way that leads to destruction: **Matthew 7:13-14** Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

The truth is, I have been burdened so much lately wondering how many people are going through this life with some false sense of security based upon some past work they have done. How tragic to think that a person would live their entire life believing the lie that because they went through some religious routine that they thought they were saved and assured a place in Heaven.

From Jesus' own lips we see that "**few**" will find the way to Heaven. He said "**strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**"

He said the same thing in the Gospel of Luke: **Luke 13:22-24** And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. 23 Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, 24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: **for many**, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

So, the question is, how can we know that we are saved? Look back at our opening text in **Matthew 7:21** Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; **but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**

Did you see that? “**he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**” What is the will of the Father? You have to wonder or guess, the Scripture is very clear on what the Father’s will is. Look at it:

John 6:40: And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 12:26: If any man **serve me**, let him **follow me**; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man **serve me**, him will *my* Father honour.

The will of the Father is for us to **believe on**, **serve**, and **follow** Jesus. If you have had true conversion, you have been regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit, then you have believed on and will have the desire to serve and follow Jesus.

There is a price for serving and following Jesus. The LORD Himself tells us this in: **Luke 9:57-62:** And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain *man* said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. 58 And Jesus said unto him, *Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.* 59 And he said unto another, **Follow me.** But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. 60 Jesus said unto him, **Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.** 61 And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. 62 And Jesus said unto him, **No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**

In each one of these cases the men claimed that they wanted to follow Jesus. But in each one of them we see them making excuses for why they cannot follow Jesus. They wanted to profess but they did not want to possess. Jesus tells them that they are not fit for the kingdom of God. Why? Because they refuse to follow Him. What is the will of the Father? To follow Jesus. What did Jesus say in our opening text?

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; **but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**

I am literally shaken to the core when I hear things such as; “*well, he lived like the devil his whole life, never did anything good, was meaner than a snake, but bless God when he was 10-years old at a revival meeting he went down and prayed a prayer and got saved. So, I know we will see him again in Heaven.*”

Listen, I’m not one that can look at a human heart and tell whether or not someone is saved, but I do know the teaching of the Bible is that true believers in Christ serve and follow Jesus. True believers do not live like hell on this earth. I know that is not popular preaching in this day of easy believism, everything goes mentality but that is Bible truth. The world doesn’t like it and neither did the world in Jesus’ day. Let me prove it to you: **John 10:24-31:** Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. (25) Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father’s name, they bear witness of me. (26) But ye believe not, because ye are not

of my sheep, as I said unto you. (27) **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:** (28) And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. (29) My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father’s hand. (30) I and *my* Father are one. (31) Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

The Jews hated the message so much that they wanted to murder Jesus right there on the spot! So, the message I am preaching this morning is not popular but I think I’m in a pretty good company of preachers that preached it, starting with the Lord Jesus Christ. And you get mad at me, you can stone me, you can run me out on a rail, you can tar and feather me - but when you stand before the righteous judge, Jesus Christ, He is going to tell you the same thing he has said in His Word: **Luke 13:27-28** But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. (28) There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, **and you yourselves thrust out.** --- Oh, how tragic it would be to hear those words; “**I Never Knew You.**”

Nowhere in the Bible will you find the method of salvation to be muttering some simple little prayer or repeating after the preacher, or raising you hand and being declared saved. That is simply unbiblical. **True believers serve and follow Jesus.** That is the message of the Bible. It is the message that Jesus preached to all people and to his disciples:

Mark 8:34-36: And when he had called the people *unto him* with his disciples also, he said unto them, **Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.** 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it. 36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Then there is the example of the Rich Young Ruler:

Luke 18:18-30

18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none *is* good, save one, *that is*, God.

20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

23 And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

24 And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, **How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!**

25 For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle’s eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

26 And they that heard *it* said, Who then can be saved?

27 And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

28 Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee.

29 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God’s sake, 30 Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.

Those that follow Christ inherit eternal life, life everlasting. It's much more than paying lip service. Lip service means nothing. Jesus said in **Matthew 15:8** **This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.**

Let me ask you something and I want you to listen to me well. I don't know your heart this morning. I can't look at you and tell whether or not you have been saved. I'm not here trying to make you doubt your salvation but I would rather make you mad than to see you go to hell unsaved. I want to ask you – Do you without a shadow of a doubt, know that you have been saved? If you died this very moment before we leave from this building this morning if for some reason, you dropped dead from a heart attack or some disaster, do you know for certain you would be in the presence of Jesus when you opened your eyes?

What are you basing your salvation on? Is it some work you did, some routine you did, some prayer you prayed, some words you repeated after a preacher? If so, was there an internal change in your life whenever you did those things? Is it your desire to serve and follow Jesus?

I want to read you one last passage of Scripture:

2 Corinthians 5:14-17: For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Were you listening? He said **that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them. And that he is a new creature.**

Do you have saving faith? Have you died to yourself and are now living for Christ? Are you serving him and following him? If you are not then chances are you are lost and on your way to hell. – **You may be a professor and not a possessor.**

Do not be one of those that stand before the Lord and hear those 4 awful words the you never want to hear: **"I Never Knew You."**