

“Doing the Will of the Father”
Matthew 7:21-23

Jesus provides the ultimate test of whether one has entered the “narrow gate” and is on the “narrow way.”

1. The Test Plainly Stated

*“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ v. 21
shall enter the kingdom of heaven,*

(1) At Issue: Entrance into the Kingdom *but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”*

(2) The Danger: An Empty Profession

(3) The Essential: Doing the Will of the Father

-1- Repent

- A man must see that all of his works – all of his own “doing” – falls miserably short of God’s standard. Romans 3:23

- From the Beatitudes:

“Blessed are those who are poor in spirit...who mourn...who are the meek.”

-2- Believe the Gospel

- The beginning of “doing the will of the Father” is to trust wholly in the doing of Jesus!
- cf. Jn. 6:29 *“This is the work of God: that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”*

-3- The Fruit of Repentance and Faith

- A new and true obedience is evidenced in the renewed heart.
- A man who has repented and believed in Jesus, stops going his own way. (Is. 53:6)

2. The Test and Its Ultimate Application

vv. 22-23

(1) The Scene: The Day of Judgment!

*“Many will say to Me in that day,
‘Lord, Lord...’”*

-1- All men will stand before Jesus Christ and answer to Him!

-2- All Religious Self-deception unmasked

- The Prevalence of such Deception *“Many will say...”*

- The Degree of such Deception

- The Futile Plea

*“Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name,
and in Your name cast out demons,
and in Your name perform many miracles?”*

(2) The Final Pronouncement

*“And then I will declare to them,
‘I never knew you; depart from Me,
you who practice lawlessness.’”*

-1- There was never any true relationship with Christ!

-2- All that was done was only so much lawlessness!

Further Application