

Brandon Phillips / General Adult

The King and His Glory / Salvation; Gospel / Mt 7:21–23

Pre-sermon Comments

1 Peter 1:3 LSB

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Sermon Introduction

Revelation 3:15–16 LSB

¹⁵ ‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ ‘So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.

Matthew 7:21 LSB

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.

Galatians 1:6–7 LSB

⁶ I marvel that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel, ⁷ which is *really* not another, only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

Galatians 1:9 LSB

⁹ As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is proclaiming to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let him be accursed!

Ezekiel 18:23 LSB

²³ “Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked,” declares Lord Yahweh, “is it not that he should turn from his ways and live?”

Sermon Text

Matthew 7:21–23 LSB

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. ²² “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, in Your name did we not prophesy, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name do many miracles?’ ²³ “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”

Discussion Questions

How have you personally felt about the rapid pace of news and world events lately?

How can we guard our hearts from becoming overwhelmed or distracted?

Pastor Brandon reminded us that our hope is a *living hope* through Christ’s resurrection ([1 Peter 1:3](#)).

How does this truth practically change the way we view the events happening around us?

Pastor Brandon pointed out the dangers of "false prophets" and distorted gospels.

What are some modern examples of how the gospel is being distorted today?

The description of Pope Francis was that he was "lukewarm" ([Revelation 3:15–16](#)).

What does a "lukewarm" faith look like? How can we guard ourselves against being lukewarm?

[Galatians 1:6–9](#) emphasizes the seriousness of preaching a different gospel.

Why is adding to or distorting the gospel so dangerous, both for the preacher and for the listener?

Pastor Brandon mentioned [Ezekiel 18:23](#) about God's desire for the wicked to turn and live.

How should this verse shape the way we view those who are lost or following a false gospel?

Are there any areas in your life where you are tempted to seek approval from the world rather than faithfulness to Christ? How can we encourage each other to remain steadfast?

In light of this message, how would you explain the true gospel to someone who is trapped in a works-based or distorted version of Christianity?

Review

Matthew 7:13-14 LSB

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴ “For the gate is narrow and the way is constricted that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Proposition and Outline

In [Matthew 7:15-27](#), Jesus gives three critical life choices that prove which gate/way ([Matthew 7:13-14](#)) you have chosen.

- **Your Choice Between Two Different Types of Prophets ([Matthew 7:15-20](#))**
[Review]
 - Either Follow The Prophets Yielding Bad Fruit
 - Or Follow The Prophets Yielding Good Fruit
- **Your Choice Between The Two Types of Confession ([Matthew 7:21-23](#))**
[Today]
 - Either Make a False Confession

- Or Make a Sincere Confession
- **Between Being One of Two Types of Builders ([Matthew 7:24-27](#)) [Next Time]**
 - Either Be a Wise Builder Who Builds Upon the Rock
 - Or Be a Foolish Builder who Builds upon the Sand

The False Confession

Matthew 7:21 LSB

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.”

Sinful man is biased in his own favor and, because of pride, tends to reject the true gospel. ~ John MacArthur

Matthew 25:1–2 LSB

¹ “Then the kingdom of heaven may be compared to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.” ² “Now five of them were foolish, and five were prudent.”

Matthew 25:3–4 LSB

³ “For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,” ⁴ but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps.

Matthew 25:5–12 LSB

⁵ “Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and *began to* sleep.” ⁶ “But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’” ⁷ “Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.” ⁸ “And the foolish said to the prudent, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’” ⁹ “But the prudent answered, saying, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you *too*; go instead to the dealers and buy *some* for yourselves.’” ¹⁰ “And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.” ¹¹

“And later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’¹² “But he answered and said, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’

How Do We Know We Are Prepared?

Matthew 7:22 LSB

²² “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, in Your name did we not prophesy, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name do many miracles?’

We must avoid believing that religious activity alone guarantees salvation

Matthew 23:23 LSB

²³ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the Law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

You Must Avoid Falling For Cheap Grace

John 8:31 LSB

³¹ So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, then you are truly My disciples;

We Must Not Fail to Examine Ourselves

An Erroneous View of God’s Grace

A Lack of Commitment to the Local Church

2 Corinthians 13:5 LSB

⁵ Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

The Inevitable Result of Failing to Examine Yourself

James 3:1 LSB

¹ Do not, many of you, become teachers, my brothers, knowing that we will receive a stricter judgment.

2 Peter 1:5–8 LSB

⁵ Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, ⁶ and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, ⁷ and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 4:15 LSB

¹⁵ Take pains with these things; be *absorbed* in them, so that your progress will be evident to all.

2 Peter 1:9 LSB

⁹ For in whom these things are not present, *that one* is blind, being nearsighted, having forgotten the purification from his former sins.

2 Peter 1:10–11 LSB

¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and choosing sure; for in doing these things, you will never stumble; ¹¹ for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

You Must Avoid Balancing Your Good and Bad Deeds

Isaiah 64:6 LSB

⁶ For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, carry us away.

Romans 3:23 LSB

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

James 2:10 LSB

¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all.

Isaiah 53:6 LSB

⁶ All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But Yahweh has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 LSB

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 John 1:9 LSB

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

You Must Avoid Associating With False Religions

The Catholic Church

Luke 1:46–47 LSB

⁴⁶ And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

Ephesians 2:8–9 LSB

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not of works, so that no one may boast.

2 Corinthians 5:21 LSB

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Colossians 2:14 LSB

¹⁴ Having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us which was hostile to us, He also has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

1 Peter 2:24 LSB

²⁴ Who Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that having died to sin, we might live to righteousness; by His WOUNDS YOU WERE HEALED.

Matthew 7:22–23 LSB

²² “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, in Your name did we not prophesy, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name do many miracles?’ ²³ “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’

Jehovah’s Witnesses

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints or Mormons

Ephesians 2:8–10 LSB

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Matthew 7:23 LSB

²³ “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’

Psalms 6:1–7 LSB

¹ O Yahweh, do not reprove me in Your anger, Nor discipline me in Your wrath. ² Be gracious to me, O Yahweh, for I *am* pining away; Heal me, O Yahweh, for my bones are dismayed. ³ And my soul is greatly dismayed; But You, O Yahweh—how long? ⁴ Return, O Yahweh, rescue my soul; Save me because of Your lovingkindness. ⁵ For there is no remembrance of You in death; In Sheol who will give You thanks? ⁶ I am weary with my sighing; Every night I make my bed swim, I flood my couch with my tears. ⁷ My eye has wasted away with grief; It has become old because of all my adversaries.

Psalms 6:8 LSB

⁸ Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity, For Yahweh has heard the sound of my weeping.

Psalms 6:9 LSB

⁹ Yahweh has heard my supplication, Yahweh receives my prayer.

The True Confession

Matthew 7:21 LSB

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.”

Conclusion:

We shall, first of all, notice that the persons mentioned in our text, whom Christ “never knew” in a saving sense, went a long way in religion; secondly, they kept it up a long while; thirdly, they were fatally mistaken; and, fourthly, they found it out in a very terrible way. ~ Charles Spurgeon

Matthew 25:23 LSB

²³ “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

Psalms 1:1-3 LSB

¹ How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the way of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! ² But his delight is in the law of Yahweh, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ And he will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

Matthew 7:23 LSB

²³ “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’

Psalms 1:4-6 LSB

⁴ The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not rise in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. ⁶ For Yahweh knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.

Discussion Questions

How did this message challenge or encourage you personally?

Why do you think Jesus' warning in [Matthew 7:21](#) is so sobering for believers today?

According to Pastor Brandon and [Matthew 7:21-23](#), why is it possible for someone to call Jesus "Lord" and still be lost?

What are some modern examples of people deceiving themselves into thinking they are saved?

How can religious activities (like serving, preaching, or giving) sometimes mask a lack of true faith?

What is the difference between true saving faith and "cheap grace" or "easy believism"?

Read [John 8:31](#). How does abiding in Christ's Word demonstrate true discipleship?

According to [2 Corinthians 13:5](#), why is self-examination critical for the Christian life?

What does healthy self-examination look like without falling into doubt or despair?

Why is commitment to a local church essential for spiritual growth and avoiding self-deception?

How does being in true biblical community help us examine ourselves more accurately?

What are some ways a faithful local church helps believers guard against shallow or false Christianity?

What are some areas of your life you feel you need to examine more carefully in light of this sermon?

How can we lovingly encourage others who might be self-deceived about their standing with Christ?

The Gospel

God

Created and owns everything

[Gen 1:1](#)—*In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth*

[Psalms 24:1](#)—*The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.*

Is Perfectly Holy

[1 John 1:5](#)—*This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

[Matt 5:48](#)—*Therefore you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Requires perfect obedience to His Law

[James 2:10](#)—*for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.*

Man

Has broken God's law

[Rom 3:10,23](#)—*there is none righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

Will pay the eternal penalty for his sin

[Rom. 6:23](#)—*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*

Cannot save himself by his good works

[Titus 3:5](#)—*He saved us not based on works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.*

Christ

Came to earth both as God and sinless man

[Col 2:9](#)—*For in Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form*

Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty

[Rom 5:8](#)—*But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*

[2 Cor 5:21](#)—*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Rose from the grave and is alive today

[1 Cor 15:4](#)—*And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures*

Sinners

Must repent of all that dishonors God

[Isa 55:7](#)—*Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.*

[Luke 9:23](#)—*if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.*

Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior

[Rom 10:9](#)—that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

Will you repent and believe in Christ?

[Acts 17:30](#)—therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance God is declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandon or Pastor Keith if you have any questions about this sermon or if you would like to know how to follow Christ.

Brandon.Phillips@gracegainesville.org

Keith.Kemp@gracegainesville.org