

Ideas to keep in mind as you listen:

1. God wants lovers who know Him, not actors who perform for Him.
2. The grace of God is the only foundation for our souls—not the works we do in His name.

Sermon on the Mount Context: God values a humble heart, not a religious exterior

Chapter Context: Discern and Distinguish!

Paragraph Context: True Christians vs. Counterfeit Christians

- What kind of fruit (“know by their fruits”) is God really looking for?
- How can we know that we are inside the kingdom of heaven and not rejected?

The Key is Covenant - “I never *knew* you” (v.23)

Gen. 4:1: Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain.

Amos 3:2: “You only have I known of all the families of the earth.

1 Sam. 2:12: Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the LORD.

1 Sam. 3:7: Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

Hos. 13:5: But I am the LORD your God from the land of Egypt; you know no God but me, and besides me there is no savior.

What are the characteristics of a covenant relationship? (e.g. marriage)

- Lifelong agreement, promise of future love
- All other options are closed-off—no other fountain, lover, or best friend
- Most of relationship is *invisible* to others, between the two parties involved
- Sharing home, finances, bodies, trust, experiences, love, families

Overview

1. What is at stake?
2. Who is the Judge?
3. Who does He reject?
4. Who does He welcome?

What’s at Stake?

1. Eternal life or eternal judgment—Matt. 25
2. Fellowship with the Author of Life—DEPART . . . or “enter joy”
3. The justification of your entire existence: your life will be weighed

Matt. 25:11: Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.

Matt. 25:41-42: “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink.

Matt. 25:46: And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Who is the Judge? (v.21)—The Son of Man

- Not other Christians – “I’m like everyone else in my church.”
- Not other gods – “I will say to them.”
- Not an unsympathetic, transcendent deity or force
- Not a dull, hard, severe man (all that is good is around His throne!!)
- Not a stranger – it’s not what you do or what you know, but Who you know!

Who Does He Reject? (v.23)—Counterfeit Christians: no covenant relationship

These people are confessing believers (“*Lord, Lord*”)!

Yet, they have:

- i. A nature that inflates them
- ii. Achievements that won’t save them
- iii. An attitude which condemns them—lawlessness, SPEED LIMIT

Counterfeits look a lot like the real deal

These are things authentic Christians have in common with false Christians:

1. Doctrinal orthodoxy (Jesus is *Kyrios*, LORD, Yahweh in Septuagint)
2. Emotional involvement (Lord, Lord)
3. Active in service (do many works)

***Quoted from Timothy Keller

Who Does He Welcome? (v.23)—Covenant Lovers

Jer. 22:16: He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this *to know me*? declares the LORD.

Gal. 4:9: But now that you have come to know God, or rather *to be known by God*, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

1 Cor. 8:3: But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

1 Cor. 13:12: For now, we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

1 Jn. 3:6: No one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.