

"BEING RELIGIOUS WITHOUT HAVING A RELATIONSHIP"
MATTHEW 7:21-23

INTRO: Today all across America and around the world, millions of people will be attending worship services at local churches. **AND THAT IS A GOOD THING!** But the question is: **HOW MANY OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE TRULY SAVED AND ARE WORSHIPPING THE LORD IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH AS CHRIST TEACHES IN JOHN 4:24.** No one, but God knows how many who will attend Bible-Believing Churches today are really saved. **Only God knows** how many who are **here this morning** are really saved. But down through the years it has been said that **NEARLY 50% OF THOSE IN A SOLID BIBLE-BELIEVING LOCAL CHURCH ON ANY GIVEN SUNDAY MORNING ARE TRULY BORN AGAIN.** (Words from my grandfather and another renown preacher = **"IF THE RAPTURE WOULD HAPPEN DURING CHURCH TIME ON SUNDAY MORNING, VERY LITTLE WOULD BE NOTICED."**). Again, only God knows how many are in church on a given Sunday morning are saved. But the fact of the matter is, **MANY WHO ATTEND CHURCHES ON SUNDAY MORNING ARE SIMPLY RELIGIOUS BUT DO NOT HAVE A TRUE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. WHAT ABOUT YOU?** Jesus Christ Himself addressed this issue in the text we have before us today that I would like for us to examine closely.

QUESTION FOR ALL WHO ARE UNDER THE SOUND OF MY VOICE TO CONSIDER:

ARE YOU SURE THAT YOU ARE SAVED, OR ARE YOU JUST A RELIGIOUS PERSON WITHOUT A REAL GENUINE RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST?

QUESTION: WHAT IS A REAL CHRISTIAN?

A REAL CHRISTIAN IS ONE WHO HAVING REALIZED THAT HE/SHE WAS BORN IN SIN AND THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY SAVIOR AND THUS HAS CALLED UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD TO BE SAVED.

I. A SERIOUS SITUATION – VS. 21 (JESUS CHRIST IS SPEAKING)

A. The Deception of "Saying."

"NOT EVERYONE THAT SAITH UNTO ME, LORD, LORD, SHALL ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."

1. The Identification of the reality of the Kingdom of Heaven
 - a. A Part of the "Over All Kingdom of God" who reigns universally.
 - b. The Sphere of "True Christian Belief" during this dispensation.
 - c. The Kingdom Christ will set up after His return to Earth (Millennium).
2. The Qualification for being a part of the Kingdom of Heaven

BEING BORN AGAIN – JOHN 3:3,5,7

QUESTION: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "BORN AGAIN?"

A ONCE FOR ALL EVENT, WHICH OCCURS WHEN ONE CALLS UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD TO BE SAVED AND IS GIVEN NEW DIVINE ETERNAL LIFE BY THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

1 PETER 1:23; 2 PETER 1:3-5

B. The Distinction of "Doing." (The Will of My Father)

"HE THAT DOETH THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN"

CP. 2 PETER 3:9

ILLUSTRATION: Sharon Achey

II. A SORROWFUL SITUATION – VS. 22 (JESUS IS SPEAKING)

A. Relating to the Coming Day

"MANY WILL SAY TO ME IN THAT DAY"

(THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT – REVELATION 20:11-15)

(OCCURS AFTER THE MILLENNIUM BEFORE THE ETERNAL STATE)

1. The Appearance of the Great White Throne Judgement – Vs. 11
2. The Attendants of the Great White Throne Judgement – Vs. 12

3. The Action of the Great White Throne Judgement – Vs. 13
 4. The Abomination of the Great White Throne Judgement – Vs. 14
 5. The Awfulness of the Great White Throne Judgement – Vs. 15
- B. Relating to the Current Day

“HAVE WE NOT”

(WORDS OF THE RELIGIOUS BUT LOST PEOPLE)

1. The False Prophets – “Prophesied in thy Name.”
2. The Exorcists – “Cast out Devils.”
3. The Morally Good – “Done many Wonderful Works.”

ILLUSTRATION: Pastor Fox

III. A SAD SITUATION – VS. 23 (JESUS IS SPEAKING)

“AND THEN I WILL PROFESS UNTO THEM”

- A. The Words of Sorrow – “I never Knew You.”
- B. The Words of Separation – “Depart from Me.”
- C. The Words of Sinfulness – “Ye that work Iniquity.”

ILLUSTRATION: Marge and Gomer Williams

LESSON AND APPLICATION

Make sure TODAY that you are not just RELIGIOUS, but that you are truly RELATED TO JESUS CHRIST.

- Identify the time when you trusted Christ as your Savior.
-Romans 10:13
- Examine yourself regarding your salvation – 2 Corinthians 13:5
- If any doubts, CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD **NOW** AND ASK HIM TO SAVE YOU TODAY! – 2 Corinthians 6:2