

## Matthew 7:21-23

*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'*

This can be very scary to read if you don't know Jesus and even more so if He doesn't know you. We ask people, "Do you know Jesus?" But according to today's devotional verses, the real question should be, "Does Jesus know you?"

*"What do you mean does He know me, of course He knows me, I went forward and said the prayer, or I was baptized as a baby."*

If you send me an email or write me a letter, that doesn't mean that I know you, nor does it mean that you really know me. But if you develop a relationship with me, spend time with me everyday, then you can truly say that you know me, and I would say that I know you as well.

Just like saying a prayer to keep yourself out of hell, yet you never changed and you never spend any time with Jesus, does not mean you have a relationship with Jesus. Also being baptized as a baby does not mean that Jesus knows you, it just means you got wet as a baby. But if you said the sinner's prayer, and your life has changed and you have a relationship with Jesus, then yes, you know Jesus and even more important, Jesus knows you too.

If you think about it, those in this parable thought that Jesus knew them too, and they thought so because they *prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?*

But let's put that more in line with what people may say today.

*Lord, Lord, didn't we go to church in Your name, didn't we tithe in Your name, didn't we sing songs and raise our hands in church in Your name?*

You see, what the problem is that the people want to be noticed for what they do for Jesus, instead of them noticing Jesus and what He did for them. Can you see it in both examples of what Jesus said and my examples? *Have we not* and *didn't we?* See how it's all about what they did "*have we not done this and that, so you should know us because of that*", instead of, "*Thank you Jesus for knowing me when you were on the cross dying for me.*"

We are all familiar with this scripture that talks how we can't do works to be saved.

† **Ephesians 2:8-9** *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

Yet do you boast in the things that you do for the Lord?

Maybe not out right boasting, like “*Hey guys, I gave fifty bucks in the offering today*” or “*I support two kids in Compassion, when most people only support one*”

But do you want to be noticed for some of the things that you do, or even who you did it with?

“*I had the pastor pray for me today*” (Boasting on who prayed for you)

“*I was walking to church and I saw this homeless man, and he looked so sad so I bought him a breakfast from McDonald’s and invited him to come to church.*” (Boasting on what you did for this person)

“*I got up early this morning and read my bible and prayed for 30 minutes.*” Boasting on how spiritual you are because of what you did; yet we should all be doing them everyday)

Didn’t Jesus say, ***Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. Matthew 6:2***

If you have to tell someone what you did, it’s no longer a secret and as Jesus said, ***they have their reward.***

Here on the earth, people get awards for pretending to be someone they are not (actors and actresses). In heaven you will not be rewarded for pretending to be a Christian. The same holds true for the rewards we will receive in heaven. You will not be rewarded for pretending to be spiritual or a super Christian by boasting on what you gave or did for someone else.

Jesus will know you when you accept what He did for you, and when you stop boasting on what you do for Him.

† **Luke 10:17-20** *Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."*