
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **What did Jesus mean when He said, "I never knew you"?**

Matthew 7:21-23

21 "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.

22 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?'

23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Notice carefully what this passage is saying. Here are some people who believed they were followers of Jesus. They believed that He was Lord. They worked miracles in His name. They thought they were saved. Yet the Lord surprised them on the Judgment Day when He said He never knew these people. How is this possible? What happened?

Verse 23 says these people practiced "lawlessness." That means they were outside the law of God. Make a mental note of that fact. The law of God will be used to judge men and those who are saved must be inside the law. This means that in order to be saved, men must obey what the law says.

1 John 3:7-8

7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

8 He who sins is of the devil, ...

The people of Matthew 7 had not obeyed what the law of God said. They were lost. They thought they were saved. They did things that saved people do. They looked saved, but they had never complied with the law of God to become saved.

Let me illustrate the situation like this: I want you to imagine a postman who delivers letter for the U.S. Post Office. Every day this postman has to sack up his mail and walk for miles delivering the mail to each house. All day, every day, he walks mile after mile in the hot sun delivering the mail. One day he does something dishonest. He meets a fellow on the street and

"hires" his man to help him deliver his mail. He dresses this new helper in one of his own uniforms. He gives the new helper some of his mail and the new helper works right along with the postman. Both the postman and his new helper look alike – they both are wearing identical uniforms. Both are delivering the mail. Both are sweating in the hot sun. Now, at the end of two weeks, it's time to get paid. The postman goes into the boss and gets his paycheck. The "helper" goes into the boss to collect his paycheck, but when the boss looks up and sees this helper, he says to him, "*Who are you? I never knew you? Depart from here. You are getting no paycheck because you have not been lawfully hired.*"

You see, no one but the boss has the right to hire new workers. Even though the helper looked like a real postman and worked like a real postman, he was, in reality, not a postman at all. He had never been officially hired by the boss.

In the same way, many people have been deceived by denominations into thinking they have been "hired" by Jesus. They dress themselves in such a way that they actually look like Christians. They work like Christians ought to work. But in fact, they have not been officially hired by the Lord.

Many, many people view themselves saved because they have been told to "*accept Jesus as the Lord of their lives and say the sinner's prayer.*" This is the doctrine of Billy Graham and the Baptist Church. This is the doctrine of community churches. In fact, this is the doctrine of virtually every denomination in town. (I'm not trying to gossip here – this is a known fact. These denominations freely publish and actively preach salvation by faith only.) Yet, neither Jesus nor His inspired apostles ever taught men to simply believe in Jesus and say the "sinner's prayer." Instead, here is what Jesus said:

Mark 16:16

16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

According to Jesus, unless one is baptized in water, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Here's what the apostles taught:

Acts 2:38

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

No apostle of the Lord told sinners to pray the sinner's prayer. All alien sinners were told to believe in Jesus and be baptized in water for the remission of sins.

Those who have never been baptized for the remission of sins are not true disciples of the Lord. They are like the "helper" of the dishonest postman – they have been deceived. They look like Christians. They work like Christians, but they have never been officially accepted by the Lord – and He's the only one who counts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on *Bible Talk*.