

Knowing & Doing

Matthew 7:21-29

Intro

Let's begin this study by defining our terms...

knowing — possessing knowledge or understanding of another person; the state of existing in a personal relationship with another person...

- [ex. I do not know C.S. Lewis according to this definition / but I do know my Dad according to this definition...]

doing — performing an action or activity...

- [ex. "I can't hang out right now, I'm doing my laundry."]

*Now, as we will see in this last section of the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord Jesus will highlight the crucial importance of both **knowing** and **doing**...*

- In our first section, we will see that it is vital that a person **knows** the Lord Jesus — because **doing** things in the name of the Lord Jesus without a **relationship** with the Lord Jesus will lead to devastating consequences...
- In our second section, we will see that hearing what the Lord Jesus says without **doing** what He instructs will also lead to devastating consequences...

With this as our introduction, please follow along as I read the passage that we will be studying this morning...

Matthew 7:21-29 (NKJV)

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!'

24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,

29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Let's move into our first section...

1) Doing Without Knowing (vs 21-23)

The Lord Jesus begins this section with some scary words...

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven,

Here the Lord Jesus is highlighting the fact that ***profession*** does not equal ***possession***...

- In other words, just because a person refers to Jesus as Lord does not mean that that person is a believer — it does not mean that individual truly ***knows*** the Lord Jesus...

You see, there is a special danger in calling Jesus ***Lord*** — some may think that saying the words "***Jesus is Lord***" is a sort of magic formula that secures one's place in heaven...

- But this is not true — a person is not saved from the judgment to come by simply repeating words — but by entering into a ***personal relationship*** with the Lord Jesus Christ...

*Now, this warning about ***profession*** without ***possession*** is a danger that the Lord Jesus addresses in...*

Matthew 13:24-30 (NKJV) [please turn there...]

24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;

25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'

28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'

29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

For Jesus' explanation of this parable, please skip down to...

Matthew 13:36-43 (NKJV)

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.

39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.

41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those

who practice lawlessness,

42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

The Apostle Paul wrote about these sort of individuals in...

Titus 1:16 (NKJV)

They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

Please turn back to Matthew 7 as we continue on with vs 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.

This is the true mark of a believer — the mark of someone who truly **knows** the Lord Jesus — is simple obedience to ***the will of the Father...***

But what is the will of the Father? — Let's turn to a few places that show us what His will is...

John 6:28-29 (NKJV)

28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"

29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

It is the will of the Father that you believe in His Son...

John 6:40 (NKJV)

“And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

It is the will of the Father that everyone who sees the Son would believe in Him and receive everlasting life...

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

It is the will of the Father that we walk in the good works that He has prepared for us...

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 (NKJV)

1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;

2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.

7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

8 Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

It is the will of the Father that we flee sexual immorality and that we seek sanctification...

1 John 2:3-6 (NKJV)

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

It is the will of the Father that we obey His word and walk like the Lord Jesus walked...

Now, please turn back to Matthew 7 as we move into vs...

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?'

The word **many** here is frightening — it indicates that there will be a large number of **tares** throughout the church age — there will be many who are **professors** without being **possessors**...

- Also, please notice that the Lord Jesus says **Many will say to Me in that day...**

*Here the Lord Jesus is making a clear reference to His deity — that people will answer **to Him on that day** — the day of Judgment...*

John 5:22-23 (NKJV)

22 “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

23 that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”

Now, as we look again at Matthew 7:22, we see what these false professors will say to the Lord Jesus...

'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

These individuals are using the right words — they say **Lord, Lord** — and they seem to have done good things — they prophesied, cast out demons, and did many wonders — all in Jesus' name...

Now, as we seek to understand this situation, there are at least three possibilities...

1) They are simply lying — they didn't really do those things — they were frauds (ex. Faith & Prosperity movement)...

2) God allowed them to do these things even though they were not believers (ex. Balaam / Caiaphas / Judas)...

3) They were actually empowered by Satan...

The Lord Jesus speaks of this possibility in...

Matthew 24:24 (NKJV)

“For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”

Moving on in Matthew 7 to vs 23 we read...

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

Tragically, the Lord Jesus will tell these people that he ***never knew*** them — this clearly means that these individuals had ***never*** entered into a personal relationship with Him...

- Please understand — these people did not know the Lord Jesus at one time and then lose their salvation — they ***never*** entered into a saving relationship with Him in the first place...

And since these people rejected a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, they remained in their sins — they rejected the only One who could rescue them from the judgment to come...

Ultimately, these are people who **practice lawlessness** — they were seeking to do their works apart from a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus...

I will close this first section with the words that are engraved in a 12th Century Cathedral in Lübeck, Germany...

***Ye call Me Master and obey Me not,
Ye call Me Light and see Me not,
Ye call Me Way and walk not,
Ye call Me Life and desire Me not,
Ye call Me wise and follow Me not,
Ye call Me fair and love Me not,
Ye call Me rich and ask Me not,
Ye call Me eternal and seek Me not,
Ye call Me gracious and trust Me not,
Ye call Me noble and serve Me not,
Ye call Me mighty and honor Me not,
Ye call Me just and fear Me not,
If I condemn you, blame Me not.***

Let's move now to our second and final section...

2) Hearing Without Doing (vs 24-29)

As we move into this section, would you please turn to...

James 1:22-25 (NKJV)

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Let's turn back to Matthew 7 as we move into vs 24...

24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them,

So, it is not enough to **hear** what the Lord Jesus says — **doing** must follow **hearing**...

The Lord Jesus made this clear in...

Luke 6:46 (NKJV)

“But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?”

- [expand — **Lord** means **Master**...]

Continuing on in Matthew 7:24, Jesus says...

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

So, as we actually **do** the things that the Lord Jesus tells us to do — *no matter how we feel about those instructions* — we are like a wise builder who is building a house on a firm foundation...

- When we obey the Lord Jesus we are building our lives on **bedrock** — we are building our lives on the firm foundation of the Lord Jesus and His teachings...

25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

The storms of life are unable to destroy the house that is founded on the rock of the Lord Jesus and His teachings...

- Now, these storms may refer to the judgment of God — they may be a picture of God testing the foundation of the house...

Or these storms may refer to the trials and tribulations that God allows (or brings) into the life of a believer to reveal something to the believer who is enduring the storm...[expand]

- At the same time, God may be revealing something to those who witness the storms that a believer weathers...[expand]

Now, as we notice in this passage, **storms will come** — **hearing** and **doing** what the Lord Jesus instructs does not exempt us from the storms — it simply prepares us for the storms...

- Thinking about this subject reminds me of a poem written by Amy Carmichael, who was an Irish missionary to India who spent years rescuing young girls from the horror of ritual prostitution...

*The poem is called **Hast Thou No Scar?** and it is written from the perspective of the Lord Jesus — and it goes like this...*

***Hast thou no scar?
No hidden scar on foot, or side, or hand?
I hear thee sung as mighty in the land,
I hear them hail thy bright ascendant star,
Hast thou no scar?***

***Hast thou no wound?
Yet I was wounded by the archers, spent,
Leaned Me against a tree to die, and rent
by ravening beasts that compassed Me, I swooned:
Hast thou no wound?***

***No wound, no scar?
Yet as the Master shall the servant be,
And, pierced are the feet that follow Me;
But thine are whole: can he have followed far
Who has no wound nor scar?***

Moving on in Matthew 7 we come to vs...

26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

This ***sand foundation*** represents *anything* and *everything* outside of the ***rock foundation of the Lord Jesus and His teachings...***

- *And **sand foundations** are tempting — because it seems much easier to build a life on whatever is currently popular — and things may go well for a while — but inevitably the storms will come...*

27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

The storms of life and the judgment of God will ultimately destroy the house that is built on anything other than the Lord Jesus and His teachings...

The sand foundation will be washed away and the house will fall — it is not a matter of ***if*** — it is only a matter of ***when...***

Moving on in Matthew 7 to vs...

28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,

When the Lord Jesus finished the Sermon on the Mount, the people who were listening were blown away...

astonished — *to cause to be filled with amazement to the point of being overwhelmed...*

29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

You see, the scribes quoted Rabbis and other sources of authority outside of themselves in order to have credibility — but the Lord Jesus did not do this...

- Instead, the Lord Jesus taught as **one having authority** — He did not refer to others but instead claimed to have His own authority to command the obedience of others...

Conclusion

With this in mind, as we wrap-up our time together, I want to remind you of what the Lord Jesus said shortly before He ascended into Heaven...

Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

This is the claim of the Lord Jesus Christ — that He has **all authority** in Heaven and on Earth...

- And if this is true — and we have every reason to believe that it is — then we are to live our lives in obedience to Him...

The passage that we have studied today gives us two fundamental ways that we can walk in obedience to the Lord Jesus...

- First of all, we have **knowing before doing** — we are to **know** Him before we start trying to **do** things in His name...
- Secondly, we are **hear** and then **do** — we must listen to what the Lord Jesus says and then build our lives on those instructions by doing what He says...

Let's pray...