

Matthew 7:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Analysis

Jesus warns against false profession: 'Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven' (Greek: οὐ πᾶς ὁ λέγων μοι· κύριε κύριε, εἰσελεύσεται εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τῶν οὐρανῶν, 'not everyone saying to me Lord, Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven'). Double 'Lord, Lord' (Κύριε κύριε) indicates emphatic religious profession. Yet verbal confession without obedience is worthless. 'Doing the Father's will' demonstrates genuine faith. This challenges easy-believism that separates profession from practice. James 2:19 makes similar point - even demons believe. Saving faith produces obedience.

Historical Context

Jewish thought emphasized both faith and works (Deuteronomy 6:4-6, Micah 6:8). Jesus confronts religious hypocrisy that maintains external piety without internal transformation. 'Lord' (Κύριε) is vocative of supreme authority - confessing Jesus as Lord requires submissive obedience. Early church faced false teachers who claimed Christ while living immorally (Jude 4, 2 Peter 2:1-3). This warning sustained church discipline and calls to authentic discipleship. Entering the kingdom requires transformed life, not mere religious language.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does doing God's will demonstrate genuine versus false faith profession?
2. What is the relationship between confessing Jesus as Lord and obeying His teaching?
3. In what ways might we maintain religious language while avoiding costly obedience?

Interlinear Text

Οὐ	πᾶς	ὁ	λέγων	μοι,	κύριε	κύριε	εἰσελεύσεται	
Not	every one	G3588	that saith	unto me	Lord	Lord	shall enter	
G3756	G3956		G3004	G3427	G2962	G2962	G1525	
εἰς	τὴν	βασιλείαν	τῶν	οὐρανοῖς	ἀλλ'	ὁ	ποιῶν	τὸ
into	G3588	the kingdom	G3588	heaven	but	G3588	he that doeth	G3588
G1519		G932		G3772	G235		G4160	
θέλημα	τοῦ	πατρός	μου	τοῦ	ἐν	οὐρανοῖς		
the will	G3588	Father	of my	G3588	which is in	heaven		
G2307		G3962	G3450		G1722	G3772		

Additional Cross-References

Romans 2:13 (Parallel theme): (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.

James 1:22 (Parallel theme): But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Luke 6:46 (References Lord): And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Luke 11:28 (Parallel theme): But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Titus 1:16 (Parallel theme): They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

Hebrews 4:6 (Parallel theme): Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

John 6:40 (Parallel theme): And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Revelation 3:5 (Parallel theme): He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

1 Peter 4:2 (Parallel theme): That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

Hebrews 13:21 (Kingdom): Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.