

Matthew 7:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Analysis

Many will claim Christian profession ('Lord, Lord'), even claiming to prophesy, cast out demons, and do mighty works in Jesus's name—yet be rejected as workers of iniquity. Religious activity, even supernatural activity, doesn't prove salvation. Only those who do the Father's will enter heaven.

Historical Context

This terrifying warning addresses false professors who have all the externals of Christianity—correct language, miraculous works, public ministry—yet lack genuine relationship with Christ. Judas Iscariot exemplifies this: he performed miracles with the Twelve but betrayed Jesus.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What religious activities or experiences are you tempted to trust in place of genuine obedience and relationship with Christ?

2. How can you ensure your faith is authentic relationship with Jesus, not just religious performance?

Interlinear Text

πολλὰς ἐροῦσίν μοι ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ κύριε κύριε
Many **will say** **to me** **in** **that** ^{G3588} **day** **Lord** **Lord**
G4183 G2046 G3427 G1722 G1565 G2250 G2962 G2962

οὐ τῷ σῷ ὀνόματι προεφητεύσαμεν, καὶ τῷ σῷ
not ^{G3588} **in thy** **name** **have we** **and** ^{G3588} **in thy**
G3756 G4674 G3686 G4395 G2532 G4674

ὀνόματι δαιμόνια ἐξεβάλομεν καὶ τῷ σῷ ὀνόματι
name **devils** **have cast out** **and** ^{G3588} **in thy** **name**
G3686 G1140 G1544 G2532 G4674 G3686

δυνάμεις πολλὰς ἐποιήσαμεν
wonderful works **Many** **done**
G1411 G4183 G4160

Additional Cross-References

2 Timothy 1:12 (Parallel theme): For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

John 11:51 (Parallel theme): And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;

Numbers 24:4 (Parallel theme): He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open:

2 Timothy 4:8 (References Lord): Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Isaiah 2:17 (References Lord): And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Isaiah 2:11 (References Lord): The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Matthew 24:36 (Parallel theme): But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

Matthew 7:21 (References Lord): 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.

Matthew 25:11 (References Lord): Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

1 Thessalonians 5:4 (Parallel theme): But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.