

Study Guide



Matthew 7:21-27 – False Profession and Self Deception January 28, 2018

Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

Word (45 Minutes)

As we look at Jesus' five discourses in Matthew, we see Matthew and the other disciples "at the feet of Jesus." These teachings are in the context of Jesus' calling and equipping the twelve apostles to go and make disciples of all nations. In our nine months of studying Jesus' five discourses of Matthew we will be sitting at the feet of Jesus learning the ins-and-outs of being disciple-makers ourselves. Our prayer is that we will be challenged to understand that we were saved in order to be disciple-makers and that we will be inspired to sit at the feet of Jesus to be equipped for our calling to be disciple-makers.

For further study on this weeks study please check out the following pages...

Action Step

Talk and plan with your Community Group on inviting guests to come visit Community Group with the goal of getting them plugged into the next Connection Group starting on March 4th.

Calendar

January 31st— Youth Camp Registration
February 4th— Youth Super Bowl Party
February 5th— Camp in the City Registration
February 9-10th— IF Gathering
February 11th— Member's Meeting
March 4th- April 15th— Connection Group
March 16th- 18th— DNOW

Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[Rejoice](#)":

Come and stand before your Maker
Full of wonder, full of fear
Come behold His power and glory
Yet with confidence draw near

For the one who holds the heavens
And commands the stars above
Is the God who bends to bless us
With an unrelenting love

Rejoice, come and lift your hands and
Raise your voice, He is worthy of our praise
Rejoice, sing of mercies of your King
And with trembling, rejoice

We are children of the promise
The beloved of the Lord
Won with everlasting kindness
Bought with sacrificial blood

Bringing reconciliation
To a world that longs to know
The affections of a Father
Who will never let them go

Rejoice, come and lift your hands and
Raise your voice, He is worthy of our praise
Rejoice, sing of mercies of your King
And with trembling, rejoice

All our sickness, all our sorrows
Jesus carried up the hill
He has walked this path before us
He is walking with us still

Turning tragedy to triumph
Turning agony to praise
There is blessing in the battle
So take heart and stand amazed

Rejoice, when you cry to Him He hears
Your voice, He will wipe away your tears
Rejoice, in the midst of suffering
He will help you sing

Rejoice, come and lift your hands and
Raise your voice, He is worthy of our praise
Rejoice, sing of mercies of your King
And with trembling rejoice

Commentary: Read Matthew 7:21-27

As the final words in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus confronts us with himself. He sets before us the radical choice between obedience and disobedience and calls us to an unconditional commitment of mind, will, and life to his teaching. Stott says, “the way he does this is by warning us of two unacceptable alternatives, first a merely verbal profession (21-23) and secondly a merely intellectual knowledge (24-27). Neither can be a substitute for obedience, indeed each may be a camouflage for disobedience.” In these verses Jesus emphasizes that without our obedience to His word we lose confidence in our assurance. These two final statements from Jesus teach us that the issue of life and death on the day of judgement will be determined by our moral response to Christ and his teaching in this life.

The first paragraph (verses 21-23) we see people offer a profession of their lips as an alternative to obedience (“Lord, Lord”). They consider themselves to be citizens of the kingdom of God, and will eternally live with Christ in heaven. But is their profession a bad thing? Professing Jesus as Lord is a good thing and also necessary. Paul says in Ro 10:9-10, **“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”** Here Paul teaches us that true believers profess (confess with their mouth) that Jesus is Lord. In this passage, the term Lord carries with it the idea that He is the Creator and Ruler over all creation and is to be submitted to and obeyed as the Sovereign. So, true believers know that Jesus is that Lord, that Sovereign, the king over God’s kingdom and is to be submitted to and obeyed. The problem isn’t with their profession. They claim Jesus as Lord and we see they openly and publicly prophesied, cast out demons and done mighty works all in the name of Christ. However, looking at verse 23 we see they are “workers of lawlessness.” They are hypocrites. They may claim to do mighty works in their ministry but in their everyday behavior the works they do are not good, but evil. Outwardly they may look righteous but inwardly there is not righteousness. There has not been a fundamental change in their identity that has transformed their character and their moral conduct. They are merely professing with their lips and are merely doing religious works but it is not flowing from a heart that has been fundamental changed by the Spirit of God.

Jesus uses a parable in the second paragraph (verses 24-27) to reveal another contrast and help us understand his point. Jesus says, it is not just about an intellectual knowledge, hearing God’s Word, studying it, memorizing it, but it is about whether we do what we say and do what we know. He says, storms will come and reveal the foundation, if not the storms in this life then the storm of Judgement. Jesus’s point is that people must have a new foundation. Two people can look the exact same on the outside, they both can profess Jesus as Lord, study His Word, have powerful ministries but one be on the path to life and the other on the path to destruction. Our righteousness is to be deeper, we must hear the gospel, profess faith in Christ, always obeying him. No matter if culture shifts or storms come our foundation is in Christ and outwardly and inwardly we seek to obey His Word. It is to place ourselves completely in Christ, to not rest in ourselves but to rest wholly in the Savior.

Discussion - Read Matthew 7:21-27

1. Look at verses 21-23. What event are these verses looking forward to? What is the meaning of “on that day” in verse 22?
2. Do these people described in verses 21-23 believe they are followers of Jesus? What evidences would they cite to demonstrate that they are followers of Jesus? Do they believe they are doing the works of the Father?
3. Is it possible to do these kinds of works—prophesy, exorcisms, mighty works in Jesus name—without really knowing Jesus? Look at Matthew 12:27, Mark 9:38-39, and Acts 19:13-15 for some answers concerning this question.
4. What two criteria are cited as necessary to be accepted into the “kingdom of heaven” (vs. 21) and to avoid Jesus’ judgment to “depart from me” (vs. 23)?
5. What does not being known by Jesus in verse 23 mean? Look at Amos 3:1-2 to get some insight regarding what it means for God to “know” a person or a people.
6. Does “doing the will of my Father” (vs 21) and being known by Jesus (vs. 23) mean the same thing? If not, how are they different from each other? How are they related to each other?
7. How is faith and trust in Jesus the most important “work” of all (John 6:28-29)? But is faith in Jesus really a “work” or is it a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9)?
8. How would you summarize the teaching of verses 21-23?

9. Look at verses 24-27. What is Jesus urging his hearers to do in these verses?

10. Is there any indication in this story that the severity of the storm for the foolish man is any different than for the wise man?

11. What is the difference between the constructions of the two houses?

12. How does doing or practicing the words of Jesus form a foundation under your life that will withstand the worst storms of life? What are some specific practices of the Christian life that build a solid foundation to withstand the storms of life?

13. Do you see your life increasingly producing salt and light type moral preservation and dispelling of darkness in your World?

14. Does the righteousness (religion) you try to practice come from a heart of love for the Lord?

15. Is your mind being more preoccupied by the spread of God's rule and righteousness rather than your own material security?

16. Do you desire to imitate Jesus as your perfect heavenly Father?

Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Matthew to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Hub/purchased	Celebrate recovery
Young life	Samaritan counseling
Heart of hope	Last call ministries
First priority	Golden age ministries
Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center	Rescue mission
Community renewal	Luke's lighthouse
Grief counseling	FCA

Here is a list of missionaries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Shannon & Carrie Lewis (South Sudan)
Matt & Angie Johnson (Panama)
Meggie Hickson (Tanzania)
Kyle & Suzy Jagers (New Orleans)

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!

Walk Prayer & Missions

For further information visit
norrisferrychurch.org or contact Jared
Clary (clary@norrisferrychurch.org)

Calendar

February 22nd- March 3rd — South Sudan
March 29th- April 1st— NOLA
June— Serve Shreveport
July— Community Outreach