

Matthew 7:21 - 29

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven” (verse 21).

What does this tell us about the change God works in us if we start to follow him?

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“Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers’” (verses 22 - 23).

Just behaving very ‘religiously’ and saying the ‘right’ things are insufficient indications that somebody actually knows Jesus. As the letter of James reminds us, faith without deeds is no faith at all. Besides Jesus, none of us is perfect – but we are being made better, if God’s Holy Spirit is working in us. Other people will surely be able to spot the difference He makes to our lives and behaviour!

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock” (verse 24).

‘These words of mine’ refers to the teaching of the last few chapters, what is often called ‘the Sermon on the Mount’. Do as Jesus tells you to do! Build your life and your behaviour on what he says! His words should be your ‘rock’ (verse 25).

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowd were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law (verses 28 - 29).

Where does Jesus’s authority come from?

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Is there anything in your own life and conduct that needs to look different, now that you have read this passage again? How is the Holy Spirit nagging you to change?

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