

Those Who Know Him Will Obey Him

“Not all people who sound religious are really godly. They may refer to me as ‘Lord,’ but they still won’t enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The decisive issue is whether they obey my Father in heaven.”

Matthew 7:21 (NLT)

Prayer Focus: When Jesus sat down on the mountainside to teach His disciples and the crowd, He imparted truths that seemed counter to the religious culture. The people were used to being taught by religious leaders who sounded godly and righteous, yet Jesus’ words were strikingly different. In fact, when He finished they were amazed at His teaching (vs. 28-29). They knew He was teaching from a true position of authority because of His relationship with His Heavenly Father. He exhorted them to live godly lives, and then warned them about false prophets and watered-down teachings. He drew a dividing line between those who were truly saved and those who called Him Lord—but didn’t really know Him. Obedience to the Father was the distinguishing mark of a true believer. Even those who claimed they knew Jesus as Lord could not fake a true commitment to Jesus as Savior in their actions. Jesus gives the sober warning that obedience will be the evident fruit of those who will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. True believers today will demonstrate their faith in Christ with hearts that are compelled to obey the will and commands of the Father.

- Day 1:** Worship Jesus as the true authority in matters of faith.
- Day 2:** Confess to the Lord any ways that your life does not demonstrate the mark of a true believer.
- Day 3:** Repent for any disobedience to the commands of the Father—and ask Him what He desires of you.
- Day 4:** Pray for a greater understanding of what it means to acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- Day 5:** Pray that your life will bear true and evident fruit.
- Day 6:** Pray that churches will teach about the warnings of Jesus regarding the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Day 7:** Pray that the lost in your community will experience the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ in true salvation.