

The Scariest Bible Verse

Matthew 7:23 “Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!”

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Matthew 7: 13-23, NIV

The Narrow and Wide Gates

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

Matthew 7: 13-23, NIV continued

True and False Prophets

¹⁵ “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶ By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Matthew 7: 13-23, NIV Continued

True and False Disciples

²¹ “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. ²² 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?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

Matthew 7:23

²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

The Greek word for “know” ginóskó (γινώσκω) is the same word used for intimate, personal knowledge.

This is NOT Intellectual Awareness!

It's RELATIONAL connection!

Matthew 7:22

²² "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?'"

Jesus was saying "don't rely on your **WORKS!**"

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV):

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Matthew 7:22

²¹ “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.

John 6:29 (ESV) - ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

John 6:40 (ESV) “For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

What does “BELIEVE” really mean?

In Greek, Translated from the Verb πιστεύω (pisteuō):

- ▶ **To believe** – to think something is true, to be persuaded of it.
- ▶ **To trust** – to place confidence in someone or something.
- ▶ **To have faith** – to rely upon or entrust oneself to someone, especially in a relational or covenantal sense.

What does “BELIEVE” really mean?

“BELIEVE” when used in the New Testament about Jesus:

- ▶ Trusting in Jesus as Savior and Lord.
- ▶ Relying on Jesus for salvation and eternal life.
- ▶ Faithful allegiance – committing oneself to Him in loyalty and obedience.

“BELIEVE” really means to entrust oneself to Jesus with ongoing, active faith—not just agreeing that He exists, but committing to Jesus personally.

Jesus' Warnings (From Matthew 7:21-22)

- ▶ The Illusion of Superficial Religion (Matt 7:21)
 - ▶ Lip Service is NOT Life Change!
- ▶ The Danger of Religious Performance (Matt 7:22)
 - ▶ Religious activity is not a substitute for a redeemed heart
 - ▶ This verse is meant to be a wake-up call for us

So, What is the heart of the matter?

Matthew 7:23 - “Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!”

- ▶ This is NOT the absence of WORKS
- ▶ But rather the absence of true relationship with Jesus
 - ▶ WALK with Jesus!
 - ▶ LOVE Jesus!
 - ▶ Be TRANSFORMED by Jesus!

What can we do?

Matthew 7:24: “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.”

- ▶ **Examine our Foundation**
 - ▶ **What is our foundation built on?**
- ▶ **Enter the Narrow Gate**

It's NOT about Perfection, it's about Surrender!



Questions?

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