



New Hampton Community Church

Message Notes

Associate Pastor Scott Sweetland

July 6, 2025 | "The Scariest Bible Verse"

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

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."

True and False Disciples 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.

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!'*

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

This is NOT **Intellectual Awareness**! It's a **RELATIONAL** connection!

Jesus was saying "don't rely on your _____"!

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV) John 6:29 (ESV)

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.

"BELIEVE" when used in the New Testament about Jesus:

- _____ in Jesus as Savior and Lord.
- _____ on Jesus for salvation and eternal life.
- _____ allegiance – _____ oneself to Him in _____ and _____.

"BELIEVE" really means to _____ oneself to Jesus with _____
—not just agreeing that He exists, but _____ to Jesus _____
Jesus' Warnings (From Matthew 7:21-22)

- The Illusion of Superficial Religion (Matt 7:21)
_____ is NOT Life Change!
- The Danger of Religious Performance (Matt 7:22)
Religious activity is not a substitute for a _____
This verse is meant to be a _____ 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 _____
- But rather the absence of true _____ 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 _____
- What is our foundation built on?
- Enter the _____

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