

Lord, Lord; Matthew 7:21-23

I. Enter

A. Getting into a Red Raider game

1. You can't just walk up to the gate and say, "let me in, I'm a Red Raider fan and I want to see the game."
2. You have to have a ticket — and not just any ticket — it must be an authentic ticket purchased from an authorized source
3. "Look at all my Red Raider gear, you can see that I am a fan and therefore must have bought a ticket"
4. They will turn you away

B. What does it take to enter the Kingdom of God?

1. What does the ticket look like?
2. Will all my clamoring and claiming to love God get me in?
3. Will all my Christian clothing and jewelry get me in?
4. Will all the things I have done in His Name get me in?

C. Jesus addresses the basic issue of entering the kingdom of God

II. Mighty Works

A. Matthew 7:22–23 (ESV); ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

B. Mighty works can come from sources other than God, including both the demonic realm and from human origin ¹

1. Acts 19:13–16 (ESV); ¹³ Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." ¹⁴ Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. ¹⁵ But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" ¹⁶ And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.
2. Revelation 13:11–14 (ESV); ¹¹ Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. ¹² It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. ¹³ It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, ¹⁴ and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

C. The contrast here is between verse 21 and 22

1. "Whoever does the will of my Father who is in heaven" versus "did we not prophesy... cast out demons... do mighty works in your name?"
2. It would seem that Jesus is saying that those things were not God's will but their own will
3. Several times Jesus says to his disciples and apostles to go heal and cast out demons (when He sends out the 12 and the 72)

¹ Craig Blomberg, Matthew, vol. 22, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 133.

4. Mark 16:17–18 (ESV); ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

D. So what is the difference between Mark’s great commission and Jesus’ statement in Matthew?

III. God’s Will

A. In Matthew 6 Jesus warns people be careful about your motivation for “practicing your righteousness”

1. Is our motivation selfish and hypocritical — to be seen by others as “Godly people?”
2. Or is our motivation to show God’s love to humanity lost in sinful behavior
3. If our motivation is selfish then Jesus’s warning “I never knew you” should send chills down our spines

B. According to Allison and Davies, “The call to righteousness encompasses personal virtue, private devotion, and unselfish social behavior; and to these things seemingly supernatural powers are incidental.” ²

C. Personal Virtue

1. Conformity to a standard of right: morality; a particular moral excellence ³
2. Philippians 4:8–9 (ESV); ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.
3. We must be devoted to moral excellence, personal virtue (not perfect, but devoted)
4. Our integrity must be above reproach
5. When we make a mistake (or sin against someone) then they will know that it was just that — a mistake and not with malicious intent or ulterior motives
6. 1 Corinthians 12:27–31 (ESV); ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.
7. Desire the higher gifts — faith, love, hope

D. Private devotion

1. The religious leaders in Matthew 6 did everything publicly so others would see them
2. We are supposed to do our works in public so that others can see (and also in private)
3. Matthew 5:14–16 (ESV); ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

² Ibid

³ Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

4. But our devotion to God must exceed even the things we do in public
 - a) To win the Super Bowl the players must eat, drink, and sleep football
 - b) They have devoted themselves to the sport — it is all they think about and everything they do has the end goal of supporting their football training
 - (1) They watch film of themselves and their opponents
 - (2) They train both on and off the field
 - (3) They eat certain diets that help them get in shape
 - (4) They go over the plays so they know them and so that they don't run the wrong route
 5. We must be devoted to God and His word, His will, and His plan
 - a) Everything we do, think, and say must be geared toward keeping us on the narrow path and encouraging others to get on or to stay on the narrow path
 - b) Acts 2:41–42 (ESV); ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. ⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
- E. Unselfish social behavior
1. This has everything to do with righteous deeds
 2. Revelation 19:6–8 (ESV); ⁶ Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.
 3. God wants us to cloth ourselves in righteous deeds — yet we are also clothed in Christ
 4. An integral part of our Christian life is our behavior towards others
 - a) Jesus tells the rich young ruler to sell everything and give the proceeds to the poor (Luke 18:18-30)
 - b) Jesus tells the religious elite that we are to help even our enemies (Luke 10:25-37)
 - c) We must be a people zealous for, and ready to do good works (Titus 2:14; 3:1)
 - d) We were created to do good works (Ephesians 2:10)
 - e) It is by these good works that other people glorify God (Matthew 5:16)
- IV. Obedience
- A. Entrance into the kingdom has always been based on obedience to God
 - B. The idea of faith has always had obedience built into it
 - C. With obedience, there is no faith (or it is a hypocritical faith built on our selfishness)
 - D. Matthew 7:21 (ESV); "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.