

SERIES: Walking with Jesus

SPEAKER: DAN COKE

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Scripture: Matthew 7:21-23, John 17:3, John 14:15, 1 Peter 3:15

TITLE: Know Jesus

“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. 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?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’” (Matthew 7:21-23, ESV)

This passage is really a continuation of the thoughts expressed in the previous five verses regarding false prophets and teachers and our responsibility to discern spiritual fruit. Now, Jesus introduces another variable to the equation involving false prophets. Some of them will do their religious work with sincerity, but sincerity cannot replace the fact that their entire ministry is built on themselves rather than Christ.

Jesus warns that He will respond to these sincere, but absolutely wrong prophets with a declaration of, “I do not know you.”

Shortly after I was saved and became a follower of Christ, I had to stop following old friends into the sinful situations I use to enjoy. And more than once, I heard the words, “Dan, I don’t even know who you are anymore.” I am absolutely thrilled to say that I loved hearing old friends say those words to me. It triggered a gratitude for the fact that Christ had saved me and was an indicator that I needed to share Christ with these friends. They needed to know who I now belonged to and why it was important for them know him as well.

I would much rather hear the words, “I don’t you know you,” come from the mouths of old friends rather than from Jesus. Hearing them from Jesus means it is time for judgment and no more time for forgiveness of sin.

Friends, whether its false prophets or false conversions, both can be certain of two things:

1. Sincerity and good deeds are not enough to justify us before God.
2. To know God is to submit to Him as God in everything.

John 17:3 says, “[And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.](#)”

John 14:15 says, “[If you love me, you will keep my commandments.](#)”

Knowing God is about more than just being sincere, it is about submitting to him as God. No amount of good and religious deeds can hide the reality of person doing their own thing and attaching God’s name to it.

1 Peter 3:15 “But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”

Now that’s the key. Setting apart Christ as Lord. Knowing Him as Lord. Submitting to Him as Lord. And then, representing Him as Lord. Look for everyone around you. Amen.