



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **“The False Convert” (Matthew 7:21-23)**

Date: **March 10, 2019**

We are nearing the end of our mini-series in the Sermon on the Mount. We have learned that it is God who changes hearts. The changed heart then changes the person. The person changes the world. And the world fights back. We have also seen that when God changes a heart, there is fruit to prove it. Good hearts bear good fruit. Those who truly belong to Jesus Christ will seek to live righteous lives. For without righteousness, “you will never enter the kingdom of heaven,” (Matthew 5:20). Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Mount has been cutting and convicting at times. And it all comes to a head in this week’s text as Jesus warns us about false conversion. He goes so far as to say that *many* we say to Jesus “Lord, Lord,” will prove to be false converts. This week’s passage is a warning to us as Christians. It is a means of grace that God uses to keep us on the narrow road as we seek to work out our salvation with fear and trembling.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 7:21-23 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
 - a. Describe the profession of faith that the false convert makes in verse 21.
 - b. Does a profession of faith guarantee salvation? Why or why not?
 - c. What types of things is the false convert able to do in the name of Christ according to verse 22?
 - d. Are “mighty works” proof of salvation according to verse 22? Why or why not?
 - e. What is the significance of the word “declare” in verse 23?
 - f. Explain the declaration that Jesus will make to false converts in verse 23.
 - g. What is the difference between a false convert and a true convert according to this passage?



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- h. What does Jesus mean by the phrase “workers of lawlessness”?

- i. John MacArthur said, “Salvation and obedience to the will of God are inseparable.” Do you agree with this statement? Explain the relationship between salvation and obedience.

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?

2. Matthew 7:21-23 is a sobering passage. Why are passages like this in the Bible? What purpose do they serve in our lives as believers?

3. Throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus has stressed the necessity of obedience. Is he preaching salvation by works? Why or why not? What is the relationship between faith, works, and salvation? Use Scripture to support your answer.

4. What are some warning signs of false conversion that we ought to be on the lookout for? How do we fight against these traits/habits/characteristics?

5. Describe the relationship between obedience to Christ and assurance of salvation. How can we grow in our assurance of salvation?

6. In our pursuit of sanctification and increased obedience to Christ’s commands, why is it important to remember the gospel each and every day? How does the gospel motivate our perseverance in the Christian life?