

Choices / Consequences 3 - Disciples

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Mt. 7:21”

Jesus began this section on choices with a warning regarding gates and paths (Mt. 7:13-14). He warned it would not be easy to find the right gate or remain on the path leading to eternal life. It would require constant care and vigilance. He then revealed the reasons. Many of the guides directing those seeking the gate or remaining on the path were false prophets appearing in the clothing of sheep. Although they appeared trustworthy, they were actually wolves in disguise. Just as there were *“false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you,”* *“they are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”* 2Pet. 2:1; Mt. 15:12-14. Jesus now gives the second reason. There would be two different types of disciples. Those who called Jesus Lord and did the will of His Father in heaven (the few), and those who call Jesus Lord but do not do the will of His Father in heaven (the many).

Saying to Jesus “Lord, Lord”

There is no question God made it an important first step. As Paul revealed to the Romans, confessing Jesus with our mouth as Lord is a necessary step in salvation.

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; 10 for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. Rom 10:9-11

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phil 2:9-11

“Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.” Mt. 10:32-33

But Jesus makes it clear here in the Sermon on the Mount that this confession alone is not enough. He affirmed that not everyone who makes that good confession will actually enter the kingdom of heaven. Since Jesus was still speaking of those who had not yet entered the kingdom, He was still referring to the gate. Calling Jesus Lord was not enough to enter the kingdom/gate leading to life. In addition to calling Jesus Lord, one must also do the will of God. The new birth would require more than accepting Christ is a “personal savior” or believing and confessing Jesus as Lord.

Jesus warned of a terrible reality. There will be *“many”* who call Jesus Lord but don’t fulfill all the conditions/components necessary for it to be genuine. The only logical conclusion we can draw is that calling Jesus Lord is a first step, but the words alone were not enough. Remember, it is these same people Jesus later told: *“I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”* Mt. 7:23

NOTE: He did not say *“I knew you but forgot you,”* or *“I knew you but you forgot me.”* He said, *“I never, for one moment, in the entire time that you believed you were serving me, knew you.”* They never had any relationship.

The Will of My Father in Heaven

The key to this passage and the fruit that will make them known centers on doing the *“will of God.”* Just as Jesus came to do the Father’s will, so must all who call Jesus Lord. Jesus’ whole life was dedicated to doing the will of His Father in heaven. From the moment He left heaven that was His stated intent, and throughout His life, regardless to the cost to Himself He kept that priority.

*Therefore, **when He came into the world, He said:** “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, **‘Behold, I have come—**In the volume of the book it is written of Me—**To do Your will, O God.’”** Heb. 10:5-7*

*But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” 33 Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?” 34 Jesus said to them, **“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.”** Jn. 4:32-35*

*But He answered and said, “It is written, **‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”** Mt. 4:4*

*I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, **because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.** Jn. 5:30*

*For **I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.** 39 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. 40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” Jn. 6:38-40*

*He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, **not as I will, but as You will.**” ... Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, **Your will be done.**”*

Mt. 26:39, 42

This same attitude must be manifested by those who call Jesus Lord. Jesus demanded that His disciples carry on His same single minded purpose. Putting God's will first and foremost and our own will or that of others completely out of our minds.

If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. Jn. 7:17-18

Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Mt. 6:10

For *whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.* Mt. 12:50

As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. Jn. 15:9-10

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, Col. 1:9-11

Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles — 1Pet. 4:1-3

By their Fruits you will Know

Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' Mt. 7:22-23

The magnitude of the problem now becomes clearer. These "many" who passed through the "broad gate" did so because they did not do "the will of My Father in heaven." Yet they were still fully convinced they had done God's will. This is very similar to the words Paul used to describe those Jews who refused to obey the gospel.

For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. Rom. 10:2-3

This is exactly what Jesus describe above. We have a group of "disciples" who will have a "zeal for God but not according to knowledge," they too will be "ignorant of God's righteousness," and would not have "submitted to the righteousness of God." God's plan was not quite suitable to them. Like Israel before them they will do "the will of God" in every way that pleases and satisfies them. But their confession is tainted. Even while He was still alive Jesus asked this question:

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" Lk. 6:46-47

As we look out into the religious world what fruit do we see that would clearly identify these people? It is evident that from the earliest times, baptism was changed to suit the ideas of man and the will of God was removed. Sprinkling replaced immersion and infants replaced adults. They called Jesus Lord, but refused to submit to God's plan. Throughout the centuries, God's word has been changed to suit the philosophies and ideas of man. God's will has often been put under man's.

One of the most startling aspects of this passage is the absolute conviction that they had done enough. They even argued with Jesus about it. Likely using the same proofs they used while living and the same reasons that had convinced them in the first place.

Jesus then warned that man would bring in miracles to bolster their claims to serving God. They would be deceived into thinking that miracles alone would prove their faithful service to the will of God even if the Scriptures taught otherwise. They used the same reasoning as used in the Scriptures, but left out one critical component. In the first century the Holy Spirit used miracles to confirm the preaching of the apostles and prophets.

how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? Heb 2:3-4

And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen. Mark 16:20

They reasoned that since God did this with the apostles and prophets of the first century He was still doing it in their day. Since miracles confirmed what was preached, God was confirming what they preached! **What hopeless confusion! Now we have false miracles added to false gates, false paths, false teachers and false disciples!**

Our only hope is Jesus guidance here. Since Jesus revealed that we would be able to know those who teach/are taught by their fruits, we must carefully sift through all the facts and seek for the description

of the fruit. Their sincerity and zeal are obvious, so there has to be something else that will reveal it. The essence of all fruit detection centers on “*the will of my Father who is in heaven.*” Knowing first that it is God’s will and neither our will, or the will of others will always reveal if it is a good fruit(will of God or bad fruit(will of men).

Two Components of this Fruit

Moses was the first to deal with and identify both components of this fruit.

“If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’ — which you have not known — ‘and let us serve them,’ 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.” Deut 13:1-4

First, we have a sign and a wonder that convinced the people that it was real and genuine. **Second**, we have preaching that denied Scripture. Even though he performed a “*sign/wonder*” his preaching revealed it was a perverted and evil fruit. While performing this “*sign/wonder*” he was denying God’s word, forsaking the very first of the ten commandments of having no other god’s. Moses then went on to explain that such *wonders* and *signs* were a test. God was testing them to know of the depth of their love and the devotion to His commands. God sought to determine if they were truly walking after the Lord, fearing Him, keeping His commands, and obeying his voice. Not even miracles were enough to move one away from these clear and obvious things.

As the Law of Moses, so also the perfect Law of Liberty! It was fixed, once for all delivered. An absolute standard of right and wrong of good and evil. Any contradiction is bad fruit! Any deviation is bad fruit! Only absolute trust, commitment, and compliance is good fruit

Moses revealed that the “*sign/wonder*” was designed to “*turn you away from the Lord your God*” and “*to entice you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk.*” Such conduct was worthy of death.

But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst. Deut. 13:5

Although God no longer seeks the death penalty for this offense, He still revealed they should be given no respect or friendship, but shunned as highly dangerous and seen as accursed. No “*sign/wonder*” can change this evil fruit into good.

*But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, **let him be accursed.** 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, **let him be accursed.** Gal 1:8-9*

*Now I urge you, brethren, **note those who cause divisions and offenses**, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and **avoid them.** 18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. Rom. 16:17-19*

Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, 11 knowing that **such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.** Titus 3:10-11

*Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, **do not receive him into your house nor greet him;** 11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds. 2 Jn. 9-11*

Good fruit Requires Respect and Submission to God’s Will

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. Pr. 3:5-7

We have to trust in the LORD with all our heart and never lean on our own understanding. How do we do that? By setting aside our own ideas, thoughts, and plans and replacing them with God’s ideas, thoughts and plans. But where do we find those thoughts? They are recorded in Scripture. It is submission to Scripture that manifests our trust in the LORD. It is a lack of respect and trust in those Scriptures that leads us to “*lean on our own understanding.*” When we submit to His word we allow him to “*direct our paths.*” When we set aside His words we become “*wise in our own eyes.*” When we submit to them we “*Fear the LORD and depart from evil.*”

Consider how the will of the Father is being undermined today and multitudes are deceived into thinking they are disciples when they are not doing the Father’s will. Scripture contains His divine will. They were fully inspired when given, designed to be permanent, and thus guarded by the omnipotent power and providence of God!

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:16-17

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly **for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.** *Jd. 3*

Heaven and earth will pass away, but **My words will by no means pass away.** *Mt. 24:35*

having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through **the word of God which lives and abides forever,** 24 because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, 25 **But the word of the Lord endures forever.**" Now this is **the word which by the gospel was preached to you.** *1Pet. 1:23-25*

Our attitude toward God's word is our attitude toward the Father's will.

When we accept everything God revealed as absolute truth, then do everything He has revealed we are doing the Father's will. When we find something in the inspired and divinely protected Scripture we disagree with, there can only be one choice for us: "*let God be found true, but every man a liar.*" (*Rom 3:4*). No matter how many disagree with God they are the liars and God is true! John made the same point in different words. "*He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him.*" *1 Jn. 2:4-5* Genuine disciples have accepted this as an absolute conviction. But multitudes of those who call Jesus Lord do not believe these things.

This is being done today on two levels. First, the antiquity of the Scriptures is being used to argue that we cannot be certain we have the same Scriptures that were given in the first century. The book of Mormon is a book that preys on these concerns. The second method for undermining the authority of Scripture is making a distinction between the authority of Jesus and that of His apostles and prophets who wrote the NT. Jesus revealed the fallacy of this reasoning.

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me." *Jn. 13:20*

"He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. *Mt. 10:40*

He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me." *Lk. 10:16*

There is no wiggle room here. If we want to accept the Father, we have to accept Jesus and if we want to accept Jesus we have to accept those he sent, specifically his apostles and prophets.

*how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the **first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,** 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? *Heb. 2:3-4**

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;** and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. *Matt 28:19-20**

*having been built on **the foundation of the apostles and prophets,** Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, *Eph. 2:20-21**

*how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it **has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:** *Eph. 3:3-6**

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, *Eph. 4:11-13**

*Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were **spoken before by the holy prophets,** and of **the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,** 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, *2Pet. 3:1-3**

How could God have made it any clearer? If we want to do the will of God then we have to accept every word in the Scriptures and seek to the very best of our ability to comply with them.. Only a deep respect and reverence for God's word can protect us from the "evil companionship" that is all around us. Paul said that women were to keep silent in the churches, but they argue, Paul lived so long ago he was influenced by his age, since we are now enlightened, we can set this aside. So we now have women preachers and elders. The same is true of homosexuality, inspiration, etc.

The simple truth is that if we want to do the Father's will, we have to trust in His Scriptures. They are the only interface we have. We manifest our love for the Father's will by doing what he says without doubt or questioning. Yet in spite of all these warnings, multitudes today are ignoring the Father's will and calling themselves disciples.