

“Judge Not Part III – Choices”

Matthew 7 v25-29

**Scripture Ref: Acts 2:22; Heb 2:4; Rev 13:11-15; Rev 15:14;
John 3:16-17; Rom 8:14-17**

- 1. Joke: Politician goes to Hell**
- 2. Choices. Every day we make choices...**
 - a. Some choices are big: What major do I choose in college? Should I buy a new house, a new car? Do I vote for Obama, or McCain?**
 - b. Some are smaller: Do I have yogurt or bacon & eggs for breakfast? Do I go for a walk, or sit on the couch and watch TV?**
- 3. Thing is – all choices have implications. Every choice we make will affect our lives in some way, either positive or negative.**
 - a. Maybe I find myself with a few extra pounds, or have a bigger car payment than I can really afford...**
 - b. Some don't have an immediate implication, but years later you find yourself in poor health after years of eating poorly!**
 - c. Some even have eternal implications!**
- 4. As we come to the end of Jesus message, given 2000 years ago on the side of a hill, we see that Jesus has presented us with choices – and He's outlines the truth that these choices do have implications.**
 - a. Choice of Two Roads:**
 - i. One is wide and everyone is on it, but it leads to destruction.**
 - ii. The other is narrow, very few are on it, but it leads to eternal life.**
 - iii. Which road will I take? Will I follow the crowd?**
 - b. Choice of Two Trees:**
 - i. Some trees are beautiful, but the fruit is poisonous.**
 - ii. Other trees may not be as popular, but the fruit is good, and sweet.**
 - iii. Who will I listen to?**
 - c. Choice of Two Houses:**
 - i. One looks fine, but it's built on sand – and when the rains come it will wash away**
 - ii. The other is built on solid rock, and will withstand the rains.**
 - iii. On what foundation will I build my life?**

Posers

21 "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. 22 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!'

5. **This must be one of the saddest pictures that Jesus paints in the bible**
 - a. **The description of someone who has reached the end of their life, and is standing before Jesus at the final judgment.**
 - b. **And they THINK that they are OK – they think that they are going to heaven.**
 - c. **Jesus will ask them “Why should I let you into heaven”, and they have an answer....**
 - i. **“I preached and taught in your name! I spoke prophecies in your name!”**
 - ii. **I cast out demons – in Your name!”**
 - iii. **I even did miracles – in Your name!”**
 - d. **Surely, that means something!**
 - e. **And Jesus response? “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” (POSER!)**
 - f. **Makes you wonder – how could they be so confused about their salvation?**

How do I know I am a Christian?

6. **Apparently it's NOT what you SAY. Speaking the words of God doesn't make you a Christian.**
 - a. **Question: Can a person who is not a Christian teach the bible? Sure.**
 - b. **Can they teach a bible study – and do a good job? Sure!**
 - c. **Can they teach a bible study, and peoples lives be changed? Sure!**
 - d. **God's word is powerful, and will change lives regardless of the messenger!**
7. **It's not what I DO. Performing a miracle doesn't make you a Christian.**
 - a. **Certainly there are times when miracles are a witness of God.**

Acts 2:22 *"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst,*

Heb 2:4 *God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?*

8. So how do you explain the fact that these people did these things?
- a. **They Lied:** Perhaps the miracles were not true miracles, but fake.
 - i. There have been countless expose's – one televangelist, Peter Popoff, was found to be wearing a little receiver,
 - ii. and his wife would tell him the details of people who had filled out prayer cards –
 - iii. and to everyone it looked like Pastor Peter was getting supernatural information from God!
 - b. Perhaps they **did miracles in the power of Satan** – We just read in Rev about how there will be signs and wonders that will mark the last days.
 - i. we are told in Acts of Simon the Sorcerer, who did things that astonished the people
 - ii. And the magicians of Pharaoh were able to duplicate most of the miracles that Moses did.
 - c. We are also warned that in the last days there will be signs and wonders that are NOT from God:

Rev 13:11-15

Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. 12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

Rev 16:14

14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

- d. Perhaps God was working through them, even though they were not truly saved:
 - i. we can't ignore the fact that God spoke prophecy through Baalim –if God can speak through a donkey, God can speak through anyone!
9. So it would seem that we need to look further than whether I sound like a Christian, or do Christian things...

The Real Test

10. Jesus is telling you and I – man you better not base your salvation on **LOOKING** like a Christian or **ACTING** like a Christian.
- a. **SO** what is the real test? There are two phrases that Jesus spoke that we should focus on:
 - i. ***“he who does the will of My Father in heaven”***
 - ii. ***“I never knew you”***

“he who does the will of My Father in heaven”

11. Sometimes we can get hung up on this “Gods will” thing, “What is God’s will?” Well He tells us clearly in John 3:16:

John 3:16-17 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

- a. **Gods will is that you and I would believe in His Son Jesus Christ – that we would give our lives to Him!**
 - b. **“that the world, through Him, might be saved”**
 - c. **God knows that this world is headed for judgment and destruction and He has thrown a big rope out to us...**
 - d. **“Quick – grab on!”**
12. It’s like these companies that have a mission statement “We want to sell as many widgets as we can”
- a. **and every part of that company is becomes aligned with that mission**
 - b. **from making the widgets, to marketing them, to selling them, supporting them.**
 - c. **And the employees – they do the will of the company – they get on board with that mission.**
13. God has a mission statement ***“I want every human being to be saved from the final judgment, and to live with me in heaven for eternity.”***
- a. **So to do the will of God, we simply get on board with God’s mission – His will – our lives become aligned with His purpose and His plan**
 - b. **We said last week : *The gospel message is the single most important message that a person might hear in his or her entire life.***
 - c. **I think that is worth getting behind – don’t you?**

- d. Which brings me to the second phrase....

I Never Knew You

14. OK, on the surface that sounds harsh – but in reality it is the essence of the mission...

- a. See God is not looking for a bunch of work bees to carry our His mission
- b. His desire it to know you! That’s the heart of what He is saying to us – HE WANTS TO KNOW YOU!

15. There are a lot of kids in my neighborhood. What if one of them started hanging out at my house...

- a. Maybe help with the dishes, mow the grass, wash my car...
 - i. Does that make them one of my children?
- b. What if they took it to the next level...
 - i. They put a picture of me on his wall, starts saying the things I saw, perhaps starts quoting me “Clay says that you should walk before you run”.
 - ii. Maybe they even start singing songs about me “how great though art – Clay...” “We exalt you – Oh Clay”
 - iii. Ok, that would be weird...
- c. But the point of all this is that none of these things would make this kid one of my children. You have to be BORN INTO my family to be one of my children.

16. But what if this kid didn’t have parents, had no future, no one to really love him or her, and my heart was moved, and so I decided to adopt this kid, bring them into my family, to take care of them and love them.

- a. It would totally change the nature of the relationship.
- b. No longer are they the strange kid that cuts my grass every week... now they are one of my children – a relationship for life.

Who We Are

17. See – God is not looking for people who will run around and quote the bible and do good things and ACT like one of His kids.

- a. He is not looking for “employees”
- b. Doing stuff for God does not make you one of His – having a relationship with God makes you one of His!
- c. God wants to bring you into His family – make you one of His children

Rom 8:14-17

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs -- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,

18. The "spirit of adoption" – "heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ"

- a. That is who we are!
- b. But we only attain that by making a choice – a choice to follow Jesus Christ!

Build on the Rock

19. It comes down to choices – what will you build your house on?

- a. ... on the things of this world?
 - i. You can – but as we have seen over the last month, the foundations of this world are subject to change.
 - ii. You can be sitting pretty one day, and broke the next.
- b. ... what other people think of me?
 - i. You can, but the praise of man is fickle. People will love you one minute, and toss you aside the next.
- c. ... what everyone else is doing, where they are going?
 - i. You can, but being in the majority does not mean you are on the right path.
- d. ... what someone else tells me is right?
 - i. You can, but are you sure they are telling you the truth?

**20. There is but one man who ever lived that I fully and completely trust:
The true Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ**

- a. He said:

24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

The day of testing will come!

21. Jesus is telling us that a day will come when the rains will fall and the winds will beat on the house that you have built – it will be the final test of your life.

- a. **When is that time? Death. Statistics don't lie – 10 out of 10 people die.**
- b. **Every person who has ever lived since Jesus spoke these words has chosen a path – has planted a tree – has built a house.**
- c. **At the end out our life, we will find out if we have been wise, or foolish.**

22.If we have built our house on the rock – the foundation of Jesus Christ

- a. **And lived out our lives according to His will – His plan – His mission**
- b. **We will stand – literally – before Christ, and He will say “enter into My rest, my good and faithful servant.”**

23.If we have built our house on anything else, He wont say “you didn't work hard enough”, or “you didn't do enough miracles”

- a. **His words will be “I never knew you”**

28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, 29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

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