**Matthew**

*Does the Lord Know You?*

*Matthew 7:13-23*

Background

* "Pastors who don’t preach expositional will never preach more than they already know." ~Pastor Mark Dever

Few Are Truly Saved (v 13 – 14)

* 23 ¶ Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, 24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. (Luke 13:23-24)
	+ Christianity (2.4B, 30%)
		- Protestant (1B, 12%)
	+ Islam (1.9B, 25%)
	+ Secular/Nonreligious/Agnostic/Atheist (1.2B, 15%)
	+ Hinduism (1.2B, 15%)
	+ Buddhism (0.5B, 6%)
	+ Chinese traditional religion (0.4B, 5%)
* 12 ¶ Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure. (Phil 2:12-13)
* Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? (2 Cor 13:5)

False Prophets Teach Otherwise (v 15)

* Joel Osteen began his ministry by declaring that you will never hear a discouraging word from his pulpit. Being positive is what Joel Osteen’s ministry is all about. On a CBS Sunday Morning Interview on March 27, 2016 Joel Osteen was asked, “You’ve been criticized for church-lite, or a cotton candy message. Do you feel like you’re cheating people by not telling them about the Hell part? Or repentance part? she asked. “No, I really don’t, because it’s a different approach, Osteen replied. You know, it’s not hellfire and brimstone. But I say most people are beaten down enough by life. They already feel guilty enough. They’re not doing what they should do raising their kids we can all find reasons, he said. So, I want them to come to Lakewood or our meetings and be lifted up, to say, You know what? I may not be perfect, but I’m moving forward. I’m doing better. And I think that motivates you to do better (CBS Sunday Morning on March 27, 2016).

Fruit Distinguishes the True Christian (v 16 – 20)

* 2590 karpos (kar-pos’)
	+ AV-fruit 66; 66

1) fruit

1a) the fruit of the trees, vines, of the fields

1b) the fruit of one’s loins, i.e. his progeny, his posterity

2) that which originates or comes from something, an effect, result

2a) work, act, deed

2b) advantage, profit, utility

2c) praises, which are presented to God as a thank offering

* The Expectation is That a Believer Bears Fruit (definition #1)
	+ 22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. 23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth *it*; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. (Matt 13:22-23)
	+ 35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and *then* cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. 36 And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. 37 And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. 38 I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours. (John 4:35-38)
	+ Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. (John 15:8)
* Scripture Does Seem to Reference Fruitless Believers
	+ 22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. (Matt 13:22)
	+ Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. (John 15:2)
* Example of Fruit Involving Behavior (definition #2)
	+ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; (John 8:31)
	+ By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. (John 13:35)
	+ Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. (John 15:8)
	+ 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. (Gal 5:22-26)
* Behaviorally, Believers Can Exhibit Both Good and Bad
	+ 10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. 11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet *water* and bitter? 12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so *can* no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. 13 ¶ Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. 14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, devilish. 16 For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. 18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. (James 3:10-18)
	+ Mathew 7 does not provide for this good and bad fruit. Thus, it appears that the fruit mentioned in Matthew 7 is the fruit that comes from being involved in disciple making, spiritual harvesting or being involved in the work of reaching souls for Jesus Christ.

Many Will Be Shocked at the Judgment