

"The Purpose of the Sermon on the Mount"

Part 11

Matthew 7:13-29

Introduction: Last week in our study of the Sermon on the Mount we looked at the "change" which happens in a person's life when they are truly saved.

Notice Matthew 7:21-23

The "many" which Jesus refers to within these verses are people who have been deceived either by their own hearts or by false teachers. They believe with all they have they are saved but Jesus tells us they have never been saved. Now there is a verse which I want to use to help us see the need to be sure you are not one of these "many" that are spoken of here.

2 Corinthians 13:5

⁵Examine 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?

Let me explain the context of this verse so that we can better understand what it is that Paul is saying here. He is coming to the end of his second letter and many people within the church have listened to his words and they have repented. They have come back into fellowship with the Lord. But there were some who were still following false teachers and there were some who were still living in sin. So he presents to them a statement and a question which is one last effort to get the attention of those who have not repented.

The main point Paul was making with 2 Corinthians 13:5 was he desired for them to look deep within themselves to make sure Christ was in them. Let us look a little closer at two verses.

2 Corinthians 13:4-5

⁴ For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him[humanly speaking], but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

⁵ 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?

Paul was reminding them that proof of being a true believer was Christ living in them. If Christ was not in them then they were not saved.

The same is true today also. Proof of salvation is Christ living within us. Jesus is the One who produces the change which we have been talking about the entire way through this section.

Now as we move on tonight in our study I want to help and anyone who is here tonight, or listens to the cds, or reads the notes to see why it is so important to look deep within to be sure Christ lives within you. The reason I want to use to see this tonight is something which Jesus said in Matthew 7.

Matthew 7:21-23

²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Tonight I want to talk about "that day" which Jesus refers to. When we read the verses we can see very clearly that when that day comes all chances for salvation are gone. I want to look closely at "that day" so we can see the need to do a self examination.

"The Judgment Day"

When Jesus refers to "that day" He is referring to a day which is in the future which we know to be the Great White Throne Judgment".

Revelation 20:11-15

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

This is the Great White Throne Judgment but I want to walk through these verses to help you see the terror which will fill the minds of those who find themselves at this judgment.

Revelation 20:11

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

When I read this opening verse I find it interesting that when John saw this "white throne" he refers to it as "great". I am reminded of what he was able to see before this which was the great tribulation period. In that time period John saw wars, famine, the rise and fall of the anti-christ. He witnessed more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the world's population die. He watched as earthquakes moved every mountain and island out of their places. I believe he witnessed nuclear wars which caused great devastation on the earth. When he refers to this as the "Great White Throne" it tells us the events which happen here are events which need to be looked at closely. John uses the word "great" 67 times in the book of Revelation and every time it is to draw attention to that which the Spirit desires for us to see.

Revelation 20:12a

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God;

Here we are now able to see the subjects of this judgment. They are the dead small and great. These are not people who are physically dead but they are people who are spiritually dead. They are standing before God. These are all the people who have died unsaved. Within this group are the "many" which Jesus spoke of in Matthew 7. The small and the

great refer to their standings while they lived on this earth. There will be slaves, there will be professional athletes, there will be politicians, and there will be millionaires. There will be many religious people who will stand before God in "that day". No one who died without Christ will escape. John tells us he saw THE dead not SOME of the dead. The word "the" includes every unsaved person.

Revelation 20:12b

and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Here we start to see some details which we need to look closely at. If we look at the verse we see that there are at least 3 books at this judgment. John tells us that the BOOKS were opened and then ANOTHER book was opened which is the book of life. Let me give you my idea of what these books will be.

1. The book of sins.

There will be a book at this judgment which record every sin ever committed by the unbelievers who be there. I say this because of what is said elsewhere in God's Word.

Hebrews 10:14-17

¹⁴ *For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

¹⁵ *Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,*

¹⁶ *This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;*

¹⁷ **And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.**

Psalm 103:11-12

¹¹ *For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.*

¹² **As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.**

Micah 7:18-19

¹⁸ *Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.*

¹⁹ *He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and **thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.***

Here we see that God will not remember the sins of those who are saved. But if we consider the flip side of that Truth then we can assume that God does keep records of those who are not saved. Therefore, I believe one of the books at the Great White Throne will be a book that contains all the sins of the unbelievers.

2. The book of accountability.

I believe there will also be at this judgment a book which contains the amount of Biblical Truth which each person was exposed to in their lives. This will determine the degree of suffering in the lake of fire. In heaven there are different degrees of reward and in the lake of fire

there will be different degrees of suffering and this will be based upon the amount of Biblical Truth these people were exposed to. Notice the words of Jesus in Luke 12.

Luke 12:42-48

42 And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?

43 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

44 Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

45 But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;

46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

In the lake of fire there will be different degrees of suffering.

3. The book of life.

The book of life will be there to answer the pleas of the unsaved.

Matthew 7:22-23

²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

These pleas will come from the unsaved and their names will not be found in the book of life. Let us now notice the next verse in Revelation 20.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

This describes the resurrection of the unsaved. Those buried at sea will be resurrected. The word "death" refers to the grave and so those who were buried in the earth will also be resurrected. The verse also tells us that "hell" gave up the dead which were there. Hell is the holding place for the soul of the unsaved and on this day the souls of the unsaved will be taken out of hell and will be united with their bodies. The question here would be, "What do these bodies look like?" They will not be glorified like those of the believer. As the unsaved stand there on that day their sins will all be brought out for judgment. Their sins combined with the Truth they were exposed to will determine their degree of suffering.

¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

All of the unsaved will then be cast into the lake of fire. Let me just say they will be **cast** in because they will refuse to enter on their own because of the sufferings which await them. People who say they look forward to spending eternity in the lake of fire with their friends need to pay close attention to the word "cast". There will not be one person who will volunteer to step into the lake of fire. They will all need to be cast in.

I want you to see that the lake of fire is referred to as the "second death". The word "death" means "separation". There are 3 deaths in the Bible.

1. **Spiritual death** - This is the state of every unsaved person. They are separated from God.
2. **Physical death** - This is the separation of the body from the soul.
3. **Second death** - This is what happens at the Great White throne Judgment. The unsaved are forever separated from God.

This will be the most dreaded day for people who die without Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

This is "the day" which Jesus speaks of in Matthew 7. This is why it is so important to look deep within your heart to be sure you are saved. Once you die there will be no second chances. When your heart stops your destiny is then sealed and there are no "do over's".