

Sunday, September 14, 2025
Battleground's CCLI: 11403295 CLSL: CSPL142794

Kingdom Declaration

Matthew 7:21-23

Main idea: Kingdom entrance is granted to those who have lived their lives oriented around knowing their King intimately and faithfully obeying His will. Many who think they are saved will be declared unrighteous and rejected from entrance to His forever kingdom.

Introduction

The reality and danger of a counterfeit Christianity

- Counterfeit knowledge
- Counterfeit faith
- Counterfeit repentance
- Counterfeit works

Who will enter the kingdom of heaven? - **Ephesians 1:3-10**

The Kingdom Entrance Is Narrow - (v. 21)

- Intellectual knowledge is essential, but insufficient to save
 - Not everyone who says, Lord, Lord! - **Romans 10:9-11; James 2:18**

“Men will trust in God no further than they know Him; and they cannot be in the exercise of faith in Him one ace further than they have a sight of His fulness and faithfulness in exercise.”

- Jonathan Edwards

- Intimate knowledge is required - **1 Peter 1:3-5; Romans 10:14-17**
- Intimate knowledge pursues God will
 - **Ephesians 6:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-18**
 - **Matthew 12:50; Hebrews 2:11; John 17:2-3**

“Since holiness is the main thing that excites, draws, and governs all gracious affections, it is no wonder that all such affections tend to holiness. That which men love, they desire to have and to be united to, and possessed of. That beauty which men

delight in, they desire to be adorned with. Those acts which men delight in, they necessarily incline to do.” - Jonathan Edwards, The Religious Affections

- When is the last time Jesus calmed you with His love? - **Zephaniah 3:17**

The Kingdom Day Is Coming - (v. 22)

- The Day of the Lord is coming - **Matthew 25:11-13; Isaiah 13:9-11**
- The Lord Jesus is the Judge - **John 5:22; Malachi 3:16-18**
- The judgment of the many - **Matthew 7:13**
- The declaration of the many - **2 Timothy 3:1-5**

The Kingdom Declaration Is Final - (v. 23)

- I don't know you - **Matthew 10:33**
- Depart from Me - **Psalms 6:8; Revelation 20:11-15**
- You are a lawbreaker - **Matthew 13:41-43**

So What?

- Did Jesus say this to scare His children into obedience?
 - **Galatians 1:6-9**
- Am I an authentic follower of Jesus Christ?
 - **Philippians 3:8-11**
- How do I build my life on Jesus Christ alone?

Now What? (Growth Group Discussion)

- Describe your wedding (or someone close to you) and the days leading up to the wedding. Describe the emotions and preparation leading up to the wedding.
- Read **Matthew 25:1-13**. What is the main point in this parable? (**v. 13**)
- Why does Jesus often compare our relationship to Him with a bride and bridegroom?
- Why is it God's will for us to live in a state of readiness as His followers?