



## 2024 Focus: Committed to Executing the Word

**James 1:22**

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### “Committed to Executing the Word of God”

*Matthew 7:21-29 NLT, James 1:22*

Jesus in His sermon on the Mount, teaches the absolute necessity of doing the Word of God. In this teaching, Jesus teaches that there will be those who profess to be His followers and go through the outward activities of a follower who will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus makes the distinction between the hearers and the doers of the Word of God. He also shows the fate of those who only hear the Word and do not do it.

**Verse #21** – Jesus uses the phrase “Lord! Lord!” To be saved, according to **Romans 10:9**, one must confess (agree, accept, turn to, start following) Jesus as Lord to be saved. In **Romans 10:9**, Lord means boss, ruler, head, consider **Romans 10:10-13 NLT**. Now, in **verse 21** of **Matthew 7**, the expectation of Jesus is that the person who calls Him Lord actually trusts Him, which is demonstrated by doing what He says. Consider **Luke 6:48** and the question that Jesus asks the question, why do you call me Lord, Lord, and not do what I say?

So now, in **verse #21**, Jesus makes a definitive statement that there will be many who deceive themselves. Many who will call Him Lord but not do what He says. Jesus states that **ONLY** those who actually do the will of the Father or obey the Word of God will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Verse #22** – Jesus explains what the self-righteous will say to Him in judgment. Remember that these are self-righteous people (they are right in their own eyes). When a person actually does the will of God, God declares them righteous (they are righteous in the eyes of God) - **Romans 10:10, Roman 8:33**. Righteous people do not have to defend themselves, Jesus does the defending – **1 John 2:1**. The fact that the person has to say anything as it relates to their obedience proves that they have not truly surrendered to Christ. Note their defense in **Verse #22** – they are still calling Jesus Lord. Then they list the things that they think justify them, but those things do not meet the Jesus standard.

**Verse #23** – This verse is amazing in its response to those who have not done the will of God. Jesus replies, I never knew you. If Jesus does not know you, you do not belong to Him. This statement is a problem; note **John 10:27**. Jesus knows His sheep. Not only does He know them, but His sheep hear His voice (respond in obedience to His voice) and follow Him. Those are the ones that He gives eternal life to – **verse #10:28**.