

Notes for Matthew 7:21-23

Hebrew & Greek pronunciation spelled phonetically (in parenthesis)

Repeating “Lord, Lord” is used for emphasis or urgency. Other instances of repetition of a name in Scripture are below. They say, “Lord, Lord.” This is not an unbeliever, pagan or Jew speaking here. This is somebody who checks the Christian box when they are asked. They don’t call Him teacher or helper only. They call Him Lord. And yet their hearts were not given to Him and did not belong to Him.

Genesis 22:11 – *But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”*

Exodus 3:4 – *When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”*

Acts 9:4 – *And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”*

Philippians 2:12-13 – *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

Ephesians 2:8 – *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,*

Romans 7:19 – *For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.*

Luke 6:46 – *“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”*

1 Samuel 15:21-23 – *But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.” 22 And Samuel said, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.”*

Romans 14:11 – *for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”*

James 2:19 – *You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!*

Matthew 7:13-14 – *Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*

John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

We can hear sermons, sing songs, do ministry, talk Bible language and hang out other Believers all while still refusing to come to Christ ourselves. We become like a spiritual talking doll!

Acts 19:13-16 – *Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims.” 14 Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. 15 But the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?” 16 And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.*

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 – *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

John 10:27 – *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*

John 10:28 – *I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.*

Psalms 6:8 – *Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.*

Matthew 25:11-12 – *Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ 12 But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’*

2 Timothy 2:19 – *But God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”*

Though Matthew 7:13-23 can be worrisome, our worry alone is a sign that the Holy Spirit is working in us. Only those who want to belong to Christ are worried if they actually do! We do not want to be frightened or discouraged by these warnings, anymore than a child should be too frightened or discouraged to cross the street. Like that child, we simply want to take the warnings to heart and then act accordingly. Like that child, we are warned because we are loved.

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21 “NOT EVERYONE WHO SAYS TO ME, ‘LORD, LORD,’ WILL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, BUT THE ONE WHO DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.

22 ON THAT DAY MANY WILL SAY
TO ME, ‘LORD, LORD, DID WE
NOT PROPHECY IN YOUR NAME,
AND CAST OUT DEMONS IN YOUR
NAME, AND DO MANY MIGHTY
WORKS IN YOUR NAME?’

23 AND THEN WILL I DECLARE TO
THEM, 'I NEVER KNEW YOU;
DEPART FROM ME, YOU WORKERS
OF LAWLESSNESS.'