

17th December 2023

Are You Offended?



In James 3:2, the Bible tells us that "For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body."

Many things offend. And they hurt. Some cut deep. While they offend, we should not take offense. Even when the offender is a brother or sister in Christ.

It is so easy to justify by saying, "Lord, I give up my time for your work... and this is how your people are treating me?? I am so discouraged, I am thinking of quitting."

Alas, too many of us fall into this trap of the devil. This is the voice of the one who asked Adam and Eve to eat the forbidden fruit.

So many good Christian workers have given up participating in the church's activities and serving because of this.

Often people will be sly, offensive or downright mean. It is not easy to be a doormat.

If we took offense everytime this happened, we would not last very long, like most others. We would keep writing off people who offended us until we had no one to work with!

So in doing the Lord's work, the key is found in Acts 5:41 in the example of the apostles that "They therefore departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name."

Just do the Lord's work in partnership with God (in the spirit of "Father forgive them for they

know not what they do"). Take it to the Lord in prayer, and go away doing better and treating this person better than before. Turn the other cheek!

When we do not take offense, giving the other brother the benefit of doubt and continuing to serve the Lord and love the brotherhood:

- a) We show consistency in serving the Lord no matter what
- b) God will be working with us in partnership and will renew us
- c) Others who intentionally or unintentionally try to offend us will still be working with us, and by our good conduct we may win them to serve the Lord more lovingly.

Let us continue serving the Lord without taking or giving offense and never give up on Him, the church or one another.

**Use the missions envelopes for your gifts
Last date 24th December 2023**



Missions SUNDAY
GO INTO ALL THE WORLD.
10th December 2023





Outline

How to Enter the Kingdom

I. WHO ARE IN THE KINGDOM

II. WHAT IS THE KINGDOM


III. HOW TO ENTER THE KINGDOM

The beginning of the way - Matthew 7:13-14

The progress along the way - Matthew 7:15-20

The end of the way - Matthew 7:21-27






Outline
How to Enter the Kingdom


Matthew 7:21-27

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Many will tell me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, in your name cast out demons, and in your name do many mighty works?'

Then I will tell them, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you who work iniquity.'





Outline
How to Enter the Kingdom

Matthew 7:21-27

Everyone therefore who hears these words of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man, who built his house on a rock.

The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat on that house; and it didn't fall, for it was founded on the rock.

Everyone who hears these words of mine, and doesn't do them will be like a foolish man, who built his house on the sand.

The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat on that house; and it fell--and great was its fall."

Sermon Mount

Outline
How to Enter the Kingdom

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

The final judgement - *So many pay lip service to Christ*

James 2:14-20 *What good is it, my brothers, if a man says he has faith, but has no works? Can faith save him?*

And if a brother or sister is naked and in lack of daily food, and one of you tells them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled;" and yet you didn't give them the things the body needs, what good is it?

Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself.

Sermon Mount

Outline
How to Enter the Kingdom

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

The final judgement - *So many pay lip service to Christ*

Yes, a man will say, "You have faith, and I have works."

Show me your faith from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.

You believe that God is one. You do well. The demons also believe, and shudder.

But do you want to know, vain man, that faith apart from works is dead?

Sermon Mount

Outline
How to Enter the Kingdom

Many will tell me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, in your name cast out demons, and in your name do many mighty works?'

Then I will tell them, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you who work iniquity.'

The people who were rejected were active followers

Like we discussed in a previous lesson on false prophets, these people had done much in the name of religion



Sermon Mount

Outline
How to Enter the Kingdom

Everyone therefore who hears these words of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man, who built his house on a rock.

The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat on that house; and it didn't fall, for it was founded on the rock.

Check your foundations

Sermon Mount

Outline
How to Enter the Kingdom
Matthew 7:21-27

Luke 8:5-15

The farmer went out to sow his seed. As he sowed, some fell *along the road*, and it was trampled under foot, and the birds of the sky devoured it.

Other seed fell *on the rock*, and as soon as it grew, it withered away, because it had no moisture.

Other fell *amid the thorns*, and the thorns grew with it, and choked it.

Other fell *into the good ground*, and grew, and brought forth fruit one hundred times."

As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" ...

Sermon Mount

Outline
How to Enter the Kingdom
Matthew 7:21-27


Now the parable is this: The *seed is the word of God*.

No soil: Those along the *road* are *those who hear*, then the devil comes, and takes away the word from their heart, that they may not believe and be saved.

No root: Those *on the rock* are they who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; but these have no root, who believe for a while, then fall away in time of temptation.

No space: That which *fell among the thorns*, these are those who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

Good soil: That in *the good ground*, these are such as in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, hold it tightly, and bring forth fruit with patience.





Outline
How to Enter the Kingdom
Matthew 7:21-27
Luke 8:5-15

Everyone who hears these words of mine, and doesn't do them will be like a foolish man, who built his house on the sand.

The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat on that house; and it fell--and great was its fall."

Nobody builds a house on the sand





Outline
How to Enter the Kingdom
Matthew 7:21-27
Luke 8:5-15

Everyone who hears these words of mine, and doesn't do them will be like a foolish man, who built his house on the sand.


The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat on that house; and it fell--and great was its fall."

Nobody builds a house on the sand

Careless – did not check foundations

Today many Christians are careless about

- Bible reading
- Church attendance
- Contribution
- Touching lives
- Sharing Christ



Outline
How to Enter the Kingdom
Matthew 7:21-27
Luke 8:5-15

Conclusion

Are you a hearer or doer?

James 1:22-25 *But be doers of the word, and not only hearers, deluding your own selves.*

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man beholding his natural face in a mirror; for he sees himself, and goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

But he who looks into the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continues, not being a hearer who forgets but a doer of the work, this man will be blessed in what he does.

BACK PAGE NEWS

