

The Danger of False Professions of Faith

Matthew 7:21-23

Verses 21-22

Note: I am indebted to John Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*, p. 206f, for a few of the following suggestions.

First, these false professions of faith are *persistent*, as seen both in this life (vs. 21, “who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’”) and their insistence on the day of judgment (vs. 22, “in that day”).

John 3:1-8

Second, these false professions of faith are *passionate* (vss. 21-22, “Lord, Lord” repeated twice).

Third, these false professions of faith are *public* (vs. 22, “prophesied in Your name”).

Fourth, these false professions of faith are accompanied by the *performance* of wonders (vs. 22, “cast out demons” and “done many wonders”).

The Example of Judas Iscariot: Mark 3:14-19; 6:7, 12-13; John 6:66-71; 17:11-12

Jesus and the Apostles Foretold False Prophets: Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10

Fifth, these false professions of faith are accompanied by claims to have operated in the *power* of Jesus' name (vs. 22, “in Your name” is repeated three times).

Verse 23

Jesus never knew them *in a saving way*, as their Lord and Savior.

1 Corinthians 8:3

John Newton, writer of the hymn, “Amazing Grace,” once wrote: “If I ever reach heaven I expect to find three wonders there: first, to meet some I had not thought to see there; second, to miss some I had expected to see there; and third, the greatest wonder of all, to find myself there.”