

Mt. 7:21-23 (LD 13. Q/A 34) “Calling Him ‘Lord’”

For the Children: Most people who live in other countries and are not New Zealanders will not call Jacinda Ardern their Prime Minister. If they would, she would probably deny it. There are also people who call Jesus “Lord” who really don’t know Him, obey Him, love Him or belong to His Kingdom. They will try to sneak into His Kingdom on the Day of Judgement by calling Him “lord” as if they were His. But He will not be fooled. He knows those who belong to Him. Those who call Him “Lord” but do not really mean it will not be allowed into His Kingdom. **Questions:** What does it mean to call Jesus “Lord”? Why is it such a terrible sin to call Him “Lord” and not really mean it? What help do we need from the Lord Jesus to enable us to call Him “Lord” and mean it?

Introduction:

First Point: Misusing the Title

- 1) Good with Words: Those being warned by the Lord are very good with words. There is an emphasis on what they say – “Lord, Lord” is said twice; they claim to do things “in His Name” (three times). Prophecy is also a matter of words. The double “Lord, Lord” implies a claim of familiarity and urgency.
- 2) Isolated Acts: However, the claims of good works by these people uses a “once-off” tense, that implies isolated actions rather than an ongoing practice of good deeds.
- 3) Extraordinary Actions: These people also claimed to have done miraculous deeds – prophecy, exorcism and healing. However, those under Satan’s sway can imitate such gifts. They cannot imitate *fruits* of the Spirit. Fruits are often not noticed, because they are continual and less extraordinary. See Mt. 25:31ff.
- 4) Respect without Love: “Lord, Lord” implies a certain respect for Christ. But these people do not love Him or what His Name and titles signify. If they truly loved His Name and titles, they would strive to reflect them. See Mt. 25:14-30. If the tree has been made good by Jesus, then good fruit will be seen (continually) in the person’s life. See Mt. 7:15-20.
- 5) A Matter of Blasphemy: To use Jesus’ title without meaning it, is actually blasphemy. Hence the severe punishment in v. 23/Ps. 6:8, Mt. 25:29-30 and Mt. 25:44. When Jesus says, “I never knew you,” this means He never had electing-love for them – they were never His.

Second Point: Meaning the Title

- 1) A Unique Title: The term “lord” implies that Jesus is our Master and Owner. After all, He has a triple-claim upon us, as our Creator, Ruler and Redeemer. “Lord” also translates the OT Name of God, “Yahweh,” for which the Jews substituted “Adonai,” – which also means Master and Owner. The church is “married” to Christ and must submit to Him as our Lord – hence the analogy in Eph. 5, and 1 Pet. 3:6.
- 2) Jesus as Judge: That the title “lord” here refers to the Divine Lord is seen in that He applies Ps. 6:8 to Himself. Judgement is put here in terms of how people have reacted to Him throughout their lives.
- 3) Doing His Will: Because Jesus is God, His will must be done. This is the same thing as doing the Father’s will. The Father’s will is not only that we should obey His Son’s commands, but also that we should repent of our sins and turn to Jesus in faith. If we do so, He sends His Spirit to ensure that we begin to practice the doing of His will. Therefore, whoever is doing the will of the Father – and the Son – will enter the Kingdom of heaven: they truly know the Son of God and have had their sins forgiven. This is demonstrated by their commitment to His Word, with their whole lives.

Conclusion: