

## **Matthew 7:22-23 Discussion**

### **Excerpt from Pastor Bob (Ft. Lauderdale, FL)**

“Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

*Matthew 7:22-23*

This is one of the most sobering Scriptures that you will ever read. Jesus is addressing the fact that, in the end, there will be multitudes of men and women expecting Him to welcome them into the kingdom, only to discover that they are not going to get in. The reason is clearly communicated as Christ declares, “*I never knew you.*” Imagine their horrific shock. These are religious people; they talked a lot about God and even did some impressive things under the guise of His name, but they did not personally know Him. Only those who know Jesus will be joining Him in His heavenly kingdom.

Knowing Jesus is one of the necessary qualifications for being part of His Church. As much as it breaks my heart to say this, there are many people today who are **in** the church who aren’t **of** it because they don’t personally know Jesus. No amount of religious routine or sacrificial service can make someone a member of Christ’s body. In fact, a man can even pastor a church that he isn’t truly a part of because he doesn’t know Christ.

So how can we know that we know Him? For one thing, knowing God means that from time to time you **cry** with Him. In time of crisis, we turn to those that we know best, and those who turn to Jesus in times of hardship and heartache truly know Him. Another indication is that you **sing** to Him. Praise is so precious because it connects us to Christ on a level that’s uniquely intimate. Finally, knowing God means that we **talk** to Him on a regular basis. Something is off when a profession for Christ isn’t followed by a prayer life. Each of these indicates whether someone is merely in church or truly of it.