

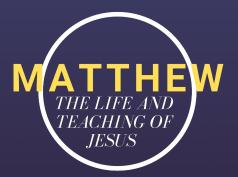
Matthew 7:21-23

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22aMany will say to me on that day,



Matthew 7:21-23

22b'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?'23Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

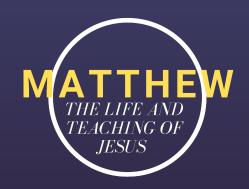


Ephesians 3:12
Hebrews 4:14-16
Ephesians 2:8

James 1:22 Romans 8:38-39 John 3:16-17 Luke 9:23-24

John 15:5,9

1 John 2:3-6



"The will of the Father means obedience to the call to the kingdom of heaven that will result in true righteousness. Since Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament (5:17), he is the ultimate example of the Father's will obeyed (26:42). To follow his example in discipleship and become like him will enable his disciples to do God's will on a daily basis."

Wilkins

"Some might conclude, then, that "the will of [the] Father in heaven" involves nothing more than being engaged in a relationship with Jesus so as to be known and recognized by him when calling upon him as "Lord." Anyone who might draw that conclusion after reading through the full Sermon on the Mount has not been paying attention. If the point is a relational one, then the transformational nature of that relationship must be emphasized.

Jesus, after all, is the one who challenges: "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (5:48). Just being in relationship (saying, "Lord, Lord," v. 22a) is not enough. Just knowing God's purpose (prophesying) and acting upon it (casting out demons and doing "deeds of power") are not enough.



Entering "the kingdom of heaven" is clearly a both-and proposition. It is doing God's will, not simply because you know Jesus' name ("Lord"), but because knowing and being known by him have transformed your own will by bringing it into accord with God's will."

Pastoral Perspective on Matthew

