



Sermon on the Mount
Wk. 31 "Confession for Admission"
By Pastor Jody May 03/30/2025

[CALL TO HEAR]

Matthew 7:21-23 ESV

I Never Knew You

²¹"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

Pastor - "People of God, this is the Word of God."

People - "Thanks be to God."

Pray

Illustration

Have you ever had the good opportunity in your life where you were the one that, "knew a guy". Perhaps someone came to you for a recommendation, in need of help, and you were able to send them to someone who could do that. You know, in my lifetime, I have had the opportunity to "know a few guys". Some of you in this church have come to find out that I know several guys that can help in a jam. I know a good mechanic, I know a good AC guy, I know a dude that can help with your taxes, I know a gun smith, I know personal trainers, I know an arborist, I know a barber, I know dudes that understand computers, I know state level politicians, and as a pastor here in Dallas GA, having coached as well locally, if I don't know a guy, you give me a few moments on the phone and I could probably find you a guy. It's good to know some names of people that can help you in a jam when you need it.

My mom and dad were like that. We didn't have a lot of money growing up, but for some reason my folks always knew a few names, and because they were generally liked by others, if they needed help, they could find it. Case in point:



Sermon on the Mount
Wk. 31 "Confession for Admission"
By Pastor Jody May 03/30/2025

I know a lot of veterans have had a lot of trouble with the VA over the years trying to get adequate care but that wasn't the case in my household. God provided for my mother at the right time the job she would need to take care of dad. My mom put herself through night school in the late 70s to learn administration assistance and got her foot in the door at the VA in the early 80s. Over the years her quiet tenacity saw her get the head secretary position in nuclear medicine then on to chief of staff, finally hitting the top running the office for the chief of surgery where she oversaw the schedules of all the surgeons on rotation pf which was very diverse spanning three different hospitals. It was from this vantage point that when my dad went through his multiple surgeries, she was always able to get dad in under the best care of the best surgeons and best practitioners of medicine. It was definitely beneficial for my dad that he was married to "the guy". ☺

Introduction

I say all this tongue and cheek to bring us to this very serious matter. There will come a day when you and I will not be able to call on anyone else, to see if someone "knows a guy" that can get us into the one place where we all want to be. Jesus makes this bold statement today that it is not about what you know or who you know, or what you can do that gets you into eternal life, but it is all about **WHO knows you!** This cannot be a relationship that comes through someone else, the intent of the verse is that you yourself, must know personally "the guy" – and that my friends is Jesus. He is the keeper of the eternal Kingdom of God, and it is your responsibility to know Him personally to gain entrance into it.

In this passage today Jesus has set Himself up as the gate keeper into the narrow way, He is the one that protects the sheep, He is the door in which all must pass through to gain acceptance into eternal life.

John 14:6 ESV

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Acts 4:12 ESV

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

1 Timothy 2:5 ESV



Sermon on the Mount
Wk. 31 "Confession for Admission"
By Pastor Jody May 03/30/2025

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

John 10:9 ESV

I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

The kicker is that there will be people that claim to know Him, when they really do not, and the result is they will experience an eternity away from God, away from love, away from peace and will spend forever separated from the Grace of God in a place called Hell. This is one of the scariest verses in the Bible for people because it shows that there is more to it than just knowing who Jesus is, or what He has done. We must be **known by Him**, there is a way in which we must be identified by Him, it as if to say **it is not just enough to know a guy but that the guy has to know us as well**, if we want to gain entrance into that eternal Kingdom.

Today what we want to do family is talk about not being one of those who Jesus says, *'take a hike'*. This is the second of three warnings at the end of the SoM where Jesus wants us to steer clear of danger. Last week we started with the danger of False Prophets/Wolves in sheep clothing; those that came looking like teachers of the Kingdom when in reality they were looking to lead people away from the Kingdom. This week He warns us against being or becoming False Disciples; those that claim to know Him, that say they did things in His name, but of who Jesus says, *depart from me, you workers of lawlessness*.

I want to break this down into some categories to make this easier to chew and I want to call us to some actions that work to ensure that Jesus does indeed know us and us Him. First, **we give evidence of our true belief (knowing Jesus) by our obedience**. There is something in the SoM we need to review, a command that leads to this intimate knowledge by Jesus. Secondly, **we give evidence of false belief by fake obedience**. We need to be aware that some false disciples like to make bold claims about fake supernatural powers, don't get caught up in that. Then lastly to help us **we self-reflect to steer away from self-deceit**.

MP -



Sermon on the Mount
Wk. 31 "Confession for Admission"
By Pastor Jody May 03/30/2025

We confess Christ with our mouths and show our loyalties with our hearts.

1. We give evidence of our True Belief by our Obedience.

²¹"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who **does the will of my Father** who is in heaven.

Matthew wants us to know that **you cannot profess Christ as Lord without knowing Christ as Lord**. The title Lord here in the text, as we have talked about before, I believe has a double meaning. In that day and age when Jesus gave the SoM it would be a term for someone that has authority over you, someone that you look to for direction and advice.¹ But we cannot forget that when Matthew writes this Gospel (between 50 & 60 AD; around 20 yrs later) it was also the confession of the church that Jesus was indeed God.

Matthew uses the Greek Word for Lord, κύριος (*kyrios*), to also mean the God of the OT, Yaweh.² We can look back in His Gospel to the first time he uses the word.

Matthew 3:3 ESV

³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,
"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the **Lord**;
make his paths straight.'"

Matthew and the Apostles believe Jesus was this Lord and this Lord is God. At almost the same time we see Paul building the theology of the church on the same confession, that indeed Jesus is the Lord God.

Romans 10:9; 14:9 ESV

^{10:9}because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

¹ κύριος (*kyrios*). n. masc. **lord, master, Lord**. The noun conveys the idea of someone who is in a position of authority. Jonathan Lo, "[Deity](#)," in *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, ed. Douglas Mangum et al., Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

² The NT also uses *kyrios* to refer to Israel's God, Yahweh, especially in NT quotations of the Septuagint (e.g., Matt 3:3; 4:7; Mark 12:11; 12:29; Luke 1:9). Jonathan Lo, "[Deity](#)," in *Lexham Theological Wordbook*, ed. Douglas Mangum et al., Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).



Sermon on the Mount
Wk. 31 "Confession for Admission"
By Pastor Jody May 03/30/2025

14:9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

There will be those that call Jesus Lord, but they don't really recognize the authority in His name. We all know a man named Judas who followed Him for years, who saw Him perform miracles and wonders, and in the end could not see Him for who He was. People who recognize the authority of Jesus' name understand His Father is God, that the Bible is the revealed will of God, and that all His words are **imperative commands** for life. They **KNOW** that Jesus is Lord.

Illustration: I find it strange how people can treat local law enforcement with impudence/disdain. I was taught and I have passed down this teaching to my children, that it does not matter why you get pulled over or questioned by the magistrate you comply (as I have learned growing up). There is **no arguing with authority** during and enforcement stop, it is too late at that point to make a case. We are given by our system opportunity in a court of law to make a case if we think it is unfair. You do not resist, you comply, and you obey so you can get home alive. In the end ignorance of authority will land you in jail and may even end in loss of life for forced compliance will come upon all.

In much the same way there are those who **choose not to recognize the authority** of Jesus, and that attitude leads to a bad end. The reality is there is no choice about obedience, about loyalty, about submission. Calling Jesus Lord means that the life you have been living has been one where you have been dying to self so that He may gain, where the name you are building is His not yours, when you make plans for your day you consult His Spirit not your will first. Family does our life reflect that we know Jesus this way? Do you recognize His authority as King of Kings and Lord of Lords? Would the Lord recognize you and me as someone that obeys the authority of Father God? Many of us could look at our past week and see we may have problem, which is what makes this verse very eye opening.

Gospel: The good news today is that Jesus spent His life obeying the authority of the Father perfectly because we can't. He laid His life down in



Sermon on the Mount
Wk. 31 "Confession for Admission"
By Pastor Jody May 03/30/2025

submission because we wouldn't. He surrendered His earthly desires in life while we were still arguing for our will to be done. The good news is that Jesus teaches us how to obey and puts in our hearts the desire to WANT to follow Him through seeing how He loved us first. Then to make that even better instead of trying to follow all the different laws Jesus sums it up into one thing in which we can focus on, where we can know if we are following the Father's will.

Matthew 7:12 ESV

¹²"So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Remember we said that the SoM comes to a point, that it is a message of not just observe and learn but **there is a command to go and do**, and here in v.12 is where we find it. Jesus is teaching His sheep, that following the heart of the Law, you will be the type of person that you love others as you would want to be loved as **someone trying to live for Christ as Lord!** Do we help the family we have here live out the beatitudes, do we help them pursue righteousness, holiness, love, forgiveness, meekness, and repentance our we passionate about their sanctification? Or do we find ourselves trying to live out moral lives on our own because you see that misses the point of the SoM entirely, **that is living like a Pharisee.** To bring glory to God is to live as a church family that lives for each other, encourages each other, that dies to their self for each other that is KNOWING Jesus as Lord because that is the will of the Father! The will of the Father is to be a group of people pursuing Him with reckless love for others, by this we are knowable to Christ.

Illustration: When I doubted if I was saved, because of how I thought of others. My Salvation and my assurance of it is based in Christ alone by faith alone, but what showed me that Salvation had indeed taken place and that it was ongoing was in my demonstration of the love I had for the family I have been brought into. We give evidence of our true belief by our obedience to love one another.

John 13:35 ESV

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you **love one another.**



Sermon on the Mount
Wk. 31 "Confession for Admission"
By Pastor Jody May 03/30/2025

We confess Christ with our mouths, but we show our loyalty through the heart of the law, love.

2. We give evidence of False Belief by Fake Obedience.

²²On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

On that day means the future Day of the Lord or the Day of Judgment when we will have our time in front of the Lord. This is the day where those that confess Christ but were not known by Christ will try to list out all their works for Christ that they did. It is the scene of, *'look what I did for you!'* Friend, I don't know what that day looks like although I know there is a divine appointment for us all to be in front of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:10 ESV

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

If on that day you are asked why you should be allowed in, you point to Christ and you cry out, it is on the merit and work of my Lord alone! It is by the Gracious gift of faith alone, and the only reason I can stand here in front of a perfectly holy God without obliteration is because I received an imputed righteousness not of my own. Unfortunately, many and I mean most of humanity will have nothing to offer but there will be a sad few that attempted to be religious believing they were adding to their Salvation.

The Lord says they will try to connect their attempts to a works-based Salvation to His name.

There will be those that say we prophesied or taught in your name.



Sermon on the Mount
Wk. 31 "Confession for Admission"
By Pastor Jody May 03/30/2025

Unfortunately, these will be the people that chose to take their views of the world and then lay Jesus over their false teachings.

- Those like I witnessed at the courthouse this past Weds., that said it is God's will to allow for the destruction of human life, and that is a Christian thing to be considerate of the mother and her feelings that would murder her child.
- Those that work for a church like North Point that teach middle schoolers and small group leaders to play into gender-dysphoria claiming it is Christ-like to go along with the lie that sex is determined by the individual and not God.
- Those that teach if you tithe more to the Apostles of the Mega Pentecostal/charismatic churches, like a Paula White, that you will receive a blessing for your generosity.

Family, I tell you unless they repent, they are headed for Hell. They prophesy in His name, and He knows them not for the Jesus we see in scripture believes in the whole Bible, observes the morality of the OT, and uses those convictions to call people unto Him when they see their sin. Watering down the Bible is a sign of False Disciples don't fall into that.

There will be those that cast out demons in Jesus' name.

Ok so that is not something we see much of anymore at least in this country but that is due to the over medication of our mentally ill and the lack of faith in our land. It happened back then, it has happened over the last 2000 years, and it still happens a lot in 3rd world countries.

Because a demon flees by the words and prayers of a religious person that is not proof, they were saved. Even the Jews in Jesus's day had exorcists that traveled the land casting out demons but up until Christ they used the authority of God's OT name, and true deliverance then was only for God's people who practiced faith in Jehovah. That did not mean though that those Jewish exorcists will make it into the Kingdom.

We have a lot of so-called exorcists today who think they cast out demons and have power only to discover they are being played, and their actions only bring Satan more glory and more room for the demon to bring more evil spirits when it is shown the individuals belief was unsaving. You see family



Sermon on the Mount
Wk. 31 "Confession for Admission"
By Pastor Jody May 03/30/2025

the first step in deliverance is Salvation, and if the one doing the casting out doesn't preach the right Gospel, then they are offering a confusing message of the Bible by which the enemy takes and confuses the individual making it harder for them to come to faith. Many times, the work of someone who is working with a demon possessed person is not to talk to the demon but to proclaim the Gospel to the person under that Spirit's control. The HS must come first and deliver that person to set up a home where the evil spirit cannot abide anymore.

Sometimes demon exorcism is real and lasting, sometimes it is falsified by the demon to cause fake faith, and sometimes it is faked by a person presuming possession when they are really not possessed at all. Claiming to be saved because you claim supernatural abilities is a sign of a false disciple don't fall into that trap.

There will be those that claim they did mighty works.

While this could be miracles there have always been those in scripture that can do wonderous things like Jannes and Jambres who copied some of the signs of Moses, or Balaam who could casts curses but we see God did communicate with him as well, or what about Simon the Magician that hounded Peter and pursued Christianity for more power, or the fortune teller that followed Paul around proclaiming the one true God. The point is there are those that can do things that cannot be explained by natural occurrences but that does not mean it was a power from God. In fact, in all those previous examples God used those that used the power of demons to actually accomplish His will. A person that has the ability to make things happen unnaturally may think they are doing things for God, but God actually condemns sorcery and which craft in scripture.

Then we have false disciples that are like the wolves. They are in churches that run the same revival circles for years and they travel like circus performers showing people how to get delivered in the spirit. I had an old acquaintance from this background that would laugh and joke about how he would fool people with trickery. This same guy would boast of his connections and would love to point out his blessings which were tied to how he could get people to believe in the power he had.



Sermon on the Mount
Wk. 31 "Confession for Admission"
By Pastor Jody May 03/30/2025

People will try and tell Jesus look at the believers I got you with the trick I used, and Jesus just calls it lawlessness/sin. To obey the Father is to spend your time loving others as you would want to be loved it is not spent time in demonstrating your more special than others because of your fake superpowers.

MP - We confess Christ with our mouths not our fake beliefs and we show loyalty with true concern for others.

[CALL TO OBEY]

3. We self-reflect to steer away from self-deceit.

Lastly family while you may not be wrapped up in exorcising demons or healing the lame with a handkerchief there may be some habits that you are attending to that may be unhealthy for you. These things can have positive affects in your spiritual life BUT if they are not leading you to the reality of **Mat 7:12 – So, whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.** Then you may need to realign your priorities.

Both Martin Lloyd Jones and John MacArthur were good to point out some areas where I think we all fall into from time to time, so here are some things to self-reflect on to steer away from self-deceit.

Are you one who looks for the *Experience*?

They love the modern worship music because it makes them feel good. Great, just don't take religious music that helps you emote as a sign for spirituality or for being right with God. A lot of modern worship songs worships a watered-down feminized Jesus and make you feel guilty if you don't cry during the song. My old church I used to work at back in FI called their service an *Experience* because mood control was used to garner a congregant's emotional manipulation. Be careful what preacher/teacher you like to listen to, and where your religious music comes from.



Sermon on the Mount
Wk. 31 "Confession for Admission"
By Pastor Jody May 03/30/2025

Are you one who is overly concerned with Tribal Loyalty?

Like while not adhering to false prophets is a good thing, are you so tied up in theological brand loyalty that you won't read anything else. Perhaps you are confusing your sense of holiness with your sense fan loyalty. You're a John MacArthur but not a so much a RC Sproul fan. You like to read only pre-mill dudes while some of the best scholars are Amil. You stick with theologians that homeschool over those that don't. You may be relating the ability to defend your theological convictions with being saved, well family the Pharisees were really good at that too, so don't get hung up on how well you describe yourself doctrinally.

Are you one who gets lost in Theological Studies?

Family I wish more of us had this issue but there can be problems if you spend massive amounts of time in devotionals and studies, but you never take what you know outside your house and put it to practice or share it with others. Don't confuse the love of study with the love of Jesus. Love of Jesus should drive you to study but love of Jesus should also drive you to love for others obeying His Father.

Are you the one that thinks it's all about Missional Mindset?

This is the opposite of the one who studies all the time. You are always living life on the go, you are always do things with the kids, and so because that is your natural inclination you equate loving Jesus with acts of kindness. You are always making sure to shove Jesus into your schedule and you like to help when you get the opportunity because it makes you feel better about your lack of spending time with God in serious devotion.

Being emotional when worshipping God is good, always looking for the emotional high, bad.

Understanding what you believe and why you believe it good, letting it lead you into a false sense of security in your Salvation, bad.

Spending time in pursuit of theological training good, using it to hide from implementation of such knowledge, bad.

Finding ways to serve God outside these four walls good, thinking that makes you better than those in it, bad.



Sermon on the Mount
Wk. 31 "Confession for Admission"
By Pastor Jody May 03/30/2025

A False Disciple is someone that has a false belief about the things they do and how they contribute to their righteousness before God.

A True Disciple is someone who has a true belief that they cannot save themselves but that the person that is being saved will spend their time loving others as they wished to be loved; helping people live for Christ.

MP –

We confess Christ with our mouths and show our loyalties with our hearts.

Let us pray and ask our Lord to know us better and to help us not fret over if we are doing enough, but to be engaged with loving others more every day.

Prayer

Communion

Matthew 26:26-29 ESV

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus. Jesus was dedicated to being obedient even to the point of death on a cross. We broke our covenant of works with the Father, but Jesus finished their demands in His life. Through His accomplishments we receive our new hearts which now enable us to love as He did. Praise be to Him for His perfect life!

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood. Our rebellion cost Him His life, our fake beliefs cost Him pain, BUT our disobedience was removed and washed away by perfected righteousness. Praise be to Him for His wonderful Love!



Sermon on the Mount
Wk. 31 "Confession for Admission"
By Pastor Jody May 03/30/2025

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand

Elder – "Christians, what do we believe?"
Congregation - recites LBCF 1689

Congregation - recites the London Baptist Confession of Faith 1689
Repentance to Life and Salvation 15.2

There is no one who does good and does not sin.² Even the best may fall into great sins and offenses, through the power and deceitfulness of the corruption in them, along with the strength of temptation. Therefore, God has mercifully provided in the covenant of grace that believers who sin and fall will be renewed through repentance to salvation.³

² Ecclesiastes 7:20. ³ Luke 22:31, 32.

[OFFERING+LAST SONG]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that graciously revealed His will in the life of Jesus and through the preaching of His Word.

Go in the name of the Son, that has made a way for us to know Him and for us to find joy in the fact that He knows us.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that enlightens us to the danger of false discipleship, so now go and love others making much of our Savior Jesus.



Sermon on the Mount
Wk. 31 "Confession for Admission"
By Pastor Jody May 03/30/2025

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