

“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.” Matthew 7:21 NLT

lectio Matthew 7:21-29

I feel like a broken soundtrack about this topic, but I want to be clear - I will NEVER undervalue hearing or receiving the truth from the reading or hearing God's word! Period. Full stop. HOWEVER, I am more than emphatic, more fanatic about this than ever before. Listening or hearing and just binging on daily Bible reading and checking them off or stuffing my head with sermon content is NOT going to cut it anymore - in fact, in never did. DOING, actionable steps toward OBEDIENCE, is the truest form of flattery of the faith we've heard or read. The experience, the practice, even the attempts and failures are more profitable than just nodding along as the Holy Spirit is trying to change me and form me into the image of Jesus! How more explicit can Jesus be when he says, "ACTUALLY DO." The rock vs sand story just emphasizes the obvious- "But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand." Hears, reads - but doesn't obey? God's word is more than just a good story to sit around and listen to like a circle of kindergartners, it's meant to be LIVED. Obedience = change. Practice = change. I must move towards those counter-cultural impulses, those selfishly driven desires to not only see change, but to really see God active in my life! To do otherwise means that God won't recognize me as a true disciple, an uber follower in the end, "But I will reply, 'I never knew you.'" I know God through obedience and apparently God recognizes his own through obedience as well. What a horrible thing to say, "But God, I followed you around my entire life and listened to every word you said!" And, have God say, "But, did you obey? Did you DO what I asked?" That will be a crushingly bad day.

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Dad,

It is absolutely true that I sin, mess up and blatantly disobey you. I don't like it either! However, I am striving, not to earn salvation, but to experience the fullness of what you intend for me in this life. Of course, I want you to recognize me on THAT day. Instead of hearing, "I never knew you," I ache to hear, "Good job Glenn, I knew you could do it!" I want to spend my life paying back and forward every good gift you've given me - which is a lot! Help me to continue to stay focused, stay in my own lane of calling and purpose and certainly be obedient to your word!

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root