The Surprising Truth About Salvation

Jacob Hudgins · Matthew 7:13–27 · Series: **Teen Weekend**

INTRODUCTION

- This section of Scripture, Jesus' words are really surprising. Because they tell us about some place we're going.
- We can prepare ourselves now for what's going to happen so that there don't have to be surprises.
- Jesus is trying to prepare us with the surprising truth about salvation.

1 Salvation Is Not Easy or Popular

Matthew 7:13–14

- Enter by the narrow gate, for the gate is wide, and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.
- Just because other people are traveling down that road, or just because it's easy for you to travel down that road, doesn't mean it's right.
- Jesus is reassuring us that if we're on a path that's hard, it doesn't mean it's wrong.
- Salvation is not a matter of public opinion polls.

2 Salvation Is Not About Appearances

Matthew 7:15–20; 1 Samuel 16:7

- Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits.
- Jesus warns us that appearances can be deceiving, that we cannot judge people or treat people solely on appearances.
- Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.
- There's no person who can pretend to be a Christian long term and you not know it.

3 Salvation Is Not Based on Claims or Freelance Works

Matthew 7:21–23

- Not everyone who says to me, Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
- The claim of belonging to Jesus, of allegiance to Jesus. I am a Christian. That claim by itself is insufficient.
- They were doing things in the name of Jesus, but they were not doing the will of the Father.
- One of these is about obedience, and the other is about me deciding what I want to do.
- So on what am I resting my confidence about the last day?

4 Salvation Is Not the Same as Hearing and Liking

Matthew 7:24–27

- Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.
- Everybody heard it. Both people in the story heard the message. Both of them built a house. But only one of them did what Jesus taught.
- Hearing something and liking something is not the same as obeying it.
- Jesus is warning us that because we nod along, we might begin to think we've actually done it.
- Don't think you've done it because you've listened. That's good. But it's not the end. It's the beginning.

5 Salvation Is About Sincere, Dedicated Obedience

Matthew 7:14; Matthew 7:21; Matthew 7:24

- Salvation demands that we be dedicated and committed. It is a process. It is a path that leads to life.
- Salvation is for the sincere. The people aren't trying to trick anybody or pretend to be something they're not.
- He says, obedience is essential. Salvation is contingent on my obedience to God.
- Jesus says, that's the person who hears my words and does them. Sincere, dedicated obedience.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Are you going to be surprised in that day? Surprised that you thought you were right when you weren't. That you thought things were okay when they were not. Do you need to make a change in your life to be obedient to God?**

MY NOTES