



## Signs & Wonders (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 in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to Me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in Your name, drive out demons in Your name, and do many miracles in Your name?' 23 Then I will announce to them, 'I never knew you! Depart from Me, you lawbreakers!'" Matthew 7:21-23*

### I. INTRODUCTION & REVIEW

#### A. The Narrow Gate & the Broad Way

1. The difficulty of the narrow way
2. The broad (popular) way leads to destruction

#### B. Many False Teachers

1. Proliferation in the last days
2. Deception prevalent

#### C. The Safety of Aligning Ourselves with Yeshua's Words

### II. SIGNS & WONDERS

#### A. Lying Signs & Wonders

*1 "If a prophet or someone who has dreams arises among you and proclaims a sign or wonder to you, 2 and that sign or wonder he has promised you comes about, but he says, 'Let us follow other gods,' which you have not known, 'and let us worship them,' 3 do not listen to that prophet's words or to that dreamer. For the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul. 4 You must follow the Lord your God and fear Him. You must keep His commands and listen to His voice; you must worship Him and remain faithful to Him. Deuteronomy 13:1-4*

1. The AntiChrist & False Prophet: These evil men will perform powerful signs and wonders as part of Satan's evil plan to deceive as many as possible. These signs and wonders are primarily what is used to deceive many people.

*9 The coming of the lawless one is based on Satan's working, with all kinds of false miracles, signs, and wonders, 10 and with every unrighteous deception among those who are perishing. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10*

*13 He (the False Prophet) also performs great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in front of people. 14 He deceives those who live on the earth because of the signs that he is permitted to perform on behalf of the beast, telling those who live on the earth to make an image of the beast who had the sword wound and yet lived. Revelation 13:13-14*

**B. Misleading Signs & Wonders:** Through Matthew 7:21-23 it is obvious that YHWH will use people who are not right with Him in supernatural ways that expands His kingdom. It is my belief that He does this in large part out of mercy and love towards those receiving the supernatural ministry.

1. In my life, on a couple of occasions, God has used Believers who were caught up in egregious sins to provide wise counsel and significant help to me when I needed it. I am grateful for their help without approving of their sin. I also wasn't confused and wondering why God used them when they were so off in other areas.
2. Judas was a consistent (I would assume successful) part of the apostolic team that went out ministering in power. He also led a double life by stealing money from the apostolic team's money supply (John 12:6)

**C. Positive Signs & Wonders:** Signs and wonders will follow true Believers as well. The first priority will be to fulfil the Great Commission and to minister to the needs of people. These signs will follow (or accompany) this commission as we come in contact with those in need that we minister to. But the supernatural element is part and parcel of this declaration of the Gospel and kingdom of God (Luke 10:1-20).

*15 Then He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new*

languages; *18they will pick up snakes; if they should drink anything deadly, it will never harm them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will get well.*” Mark 16:15-18

**D. Signs & Wonders aren’t primarily what God is looking for**

1. These are not listed in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) as activities to specifically seek. They are however to accompany the Great Commission and to follow us as Believers.
2. God is not trying to trick folks or just “use” those operating in these miraculous ways – that is why He so specifically speaks of this in the Sermon on the Mount. He wants all to enter through the narrow gate and not be deceived at thinking that being a supernatural conduit necessarily means that God is pleased with us.

**D. Signs & Wonders are Neutral:** In summary, all types of people will do supernatural signs. True Believers will have these signs follow them. False Believers will operate in this way: Judas operated in these signs and lived a double life. UnBelievers and the wicked will also operate in the miraculous gifts. Balaam’s jackass operated supernaturally. The AntiChrist and False Prophet will operate in these miraculous signs. We aren’t to avoid these things, but we are to seek them in an appropriate way as we obediently follow the commands of God. We are not to think that operating in these signs is a divine validation of our lives.

### III. THE PROBLEMS: EXTERNAL APPEARANCE

**A. Many Will Say:** This will not be an isolated instance as many will be in this category. This would include the many on the wide gate to destruction.

**B. Not Doing the Will of My Father:** These people’s internal and external lives will not line up with the Sermon on the Mount lifestyle.

1. *He who does God’s will:* Obedience to Yeshua does not earn our salvation, but gives evidence that our faith is genuine (Jas. 2:14-17). We express our faith with works of obedience to Yeshua. To exalt works as that which earns God’s love greatly undermines the grace of God. However, to exclude good works as unnecessary is to deny the life empowering influence of grace (Ti. 2:11-13). Salvation by works and salvation *without* works both rob Yeshua of His glory.

<sup>14</sup>“...if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can [that] faith save him?...”

<sup>17</sup>Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (Jas. 2:14–17)

**C. Not Knowing Yeshua:** They are not abiding in Him and don’t have a relationship with Him as evidenced by a life of obedience to Him.

**D. Workers of Lawlessness** These are not mass murderers, but simply people who embraced lifestyles of immorality, drunkenness, lying, and financial lack of integrity, etc.

*16I say then, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don’t do what you want. 18But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, 20idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, 21envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I tell you about these things in advance — as I told you before — that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

*24Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25Since we live by the Spirit, we must also follow the Spirit. Galatians 5:16-21, 24-25*

*9Don’t you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don’t fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, 10or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. 11Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11*

**E. Depart from Me:** These will be the most shocking and terrifying words that they will ever hear. Their focus is mostly on their ministry and not in cultivating a life of obedience.

**F. Supernatural Ministry:** They assume their popular ministry will be sufficient proof of their genuine faith. They have many testimonies of their prophecies, exorcisms, and healing miracles.

**G. Our Propensity Towards Pride:** there have been a handful of times where God has used me in a more supernatural way. My initial tendency in that moment is to think, “wow God used me in an extraordinary way

and then move into pride. This pride if not resisted and repented of leads to other sins including carelessness and presumption.

1. *Don't rejoice that demons are subject to you...* but rejoice that our names are written in heaven.

17The Seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name."

18He said to them, "*I watched Satan fall from heaven like a lightning flash. 19Look, I have given you the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy; nothing will ever harm you. 20However, don't rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.*" Luke 10:17-20

#### IV. THE SOLUTION: INTERNAL REALITY & EXTERNAL FRUIT

**A. Did You Learn to Love?** We know what God's agenda for us: it's that we are growing in our love for God and our fellow man. None of us love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and none of us yet love every person around us the way Yeshua loves us. But this kind of love is coming to His body in the context of great global pressure.

1. *Love for God:*

2. *Love for our Neighbor* which includes our brothers and sisters in Messiah as well as those around us, and finally for those who actively oppose us.

3. *Growing in Love:* Regularly ask Him to help you grow in love for Him and others. Ask Him to show You what you can do to grow in this love.

**B. Prayer:** Bring words with you and come to God. We have regularly scheduled times daily and spontaneous times throughout the day to talk to Yeshua (we abide in Him). We go in to our prayer closet, shut the door and know that He hears and will reward us. We ask Him to help us grow in prayer.

**C. The Word** - regularly pray-read the Sermon on the Mount (and other parts of the Bible). As you read these texts, commit your heart to obey and ask Yeshua for help.

**D. Ask for Divine Assessments Now** - Shock me now, not on that day. I would rather be shocked now by a sobering assessment that I can do something about than to be shocked on that day when it's too late to make any changes.

1. There's no such thing as a secret: God sees everything. If we have a growing awareness of this reality, then we'll live differently.

23Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. 24See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way. Psalm 139:23-24

2. In each section of the Sermon on the Mount can ask God to search our hearts and help us to grow.

**E. Love Produces Obedience:** and obedience to God's ways is often not easy. Last week's teaching was about that and is on-line.

1. Embrace and realize the way of the cross

**F. Importance of Godly Accountability**

1. Consistently draw together with other Believers: there is more safety when you can know and be known in these settings.

2. Small, local house-churches will be more and more the norm as we get closer to Yeshua's return.

**G. A Lifestyle of Repentance:** Where we are falling short, we should repent, ask Him to help us do rightly, and then partner with His Spirit to crucify our flesh by making changes that we make accountable to Him and others.

#### V. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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