

I Never Knew You.

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November 8th - Billings, MT

Intro:

Imagine that you are standing before God on the day of judgement. You are expecting to hear him say *'Well [done], good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'* (Matthew 25:21 NKJV)

But instead he says *'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'* (Matthew 7:23 NKJV)

Then there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth...

Luke 13:28 NLT - 28 "There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, for you will see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the Kingdom of God, but you will be thrown out.

Specific Purpose of today's message:

Today I want to focus on what we need to do and things not to do in order to be known of God and Jesus Christ.

Need:

We need to be doing what builds a positive relationship with God and Christ. And not doing the things that do not build a relationship with Them.

Matthew 7:23 AMP - 23 "And then I will declare to them publicly, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME [you are banished from My presence], YOU WHO ACT WICKEDLY [disregarding My commands].'

Matthew 7:21-23 KJV - 21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.	Matthew 25:6-12 KJV - 6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 9 But the wise answered, saying, [Not so]; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. 10 And while they went to	Luke 13:23-28 KJV - 23 Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, 24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. 25 When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:
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	buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.	26 Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. 27 But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all [ye] workers of iniquity. 28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you [yourselves] thrust out.
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Matthew 7:21-23 KJV - 21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?
23 And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you:** depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Problems:

First - V21 saying Lord, Lord is not enough. Ie recognizing him is not enough.
WE HAVE TO DO GOD's WILL!

Second - thinking that they had prophesied in the Lord's name and even cast out demons and done wonderful works... ie they were looking at what THEY had done.

He says depart from me - you that work iniquity! Ie they were not obedient. They were breaking the law.

Iniquity = G458 = ἀνομία anomía, an-om-ee'-ah; from [G459](#); illegality, i.e. violation of law or (genitive case) wickedness:—iniquity, × transgress(-ion of) the law, unrighteousness. **The KJV translates Strong's G458 in the following manner: [iniquity](#) (12x), [unrighteousness](#) (1x), [transgress the law \(with G4160\)](#) (1x), [transgression of the law](#) (1x).**

Outline of Biblical Usage:

- I. the condition of without law
 - A. because ignorant of it
 - B. because of violating it
- II. contempt and violation of law, iniquity, wickedness

Related verses:

Matthew 23:28 KJV - 28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-12 ESV - 3 Let no one deceive you in any way.

Warning NOT to be deceived!

For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

This is revealed at the return of Christ.

9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

The importance of loving the truth! If we don't love the truth we can not be saved. These people REFUSED to love the truth!

What is the alternative to loving the truth? Believing a LIE.

11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 ESV - 13 But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and **belief in the truth**.

Titus 2:14-15 KJV - 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and **purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works**. 15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

Being Zealous of good works means doing everything God commands and not OMITTING some things. Ie we can be guilty of the sin of omission.

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A [sin of omission](#) in the Bible is the failure to do what is known to be right or good, as stated in **James 4:17: "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins"**. It is distinct from a sin of [commission](#) (actively doing wrong) and examples include neglecting to help those in need, failing to forgive, or not sharing the gospel.

Examples of sins of omission in the Bible

- **Failing to care for the needy:** Not feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, or visiting the sick and those in prison (Matthew 25:35–40).
- **Failing to love others:** Not showing love to one's neighbor, especially when they are in need (1 John 3:17).
- **Failing to act on knowledge:** Knowingly failing to do good deeds that God has

commanded.

- **Neglecting to spread the faith:** Failing to share the gospel or make disciples, which is a command for Christians.
- **Failing to forgive:** Refusing to forgive others as one has been forgiven

(We need to be doing all of these things! To not do one is sin ie lawlessness. ie not yielding to God.)

Why sins of omission are significant

- **They are not necessarily passive:** While a sin of omission is a failure to act, it can have serious consequences, sometimes seen as more damaging than a [sin of commission](#), especially when there is a deliberate choice to ignore a command.
- **They are tied to knowledge:** The sin is intensified when a person knows what is right but deliberately chooses not to do it.
- **They indicate a lack of conformity to God's law:** Both committing a forbidden act and omitting a required one are considered a lack of conformity to God's law.

Lessons from Luke 13:

Luke 13:23-27 AMP - 23 And someone asked Him, "Lord, will only a few be saved [from the penalties of the last judgment]?" And He said to them, 24 "Strive to enter through the narrow door [force aside unbelief and the attractions of sin]; for many, I tell you, will try to enter [by their own works] and will not be able. 25 "Once the head of the house gets up and closes the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door [again and again], saying, 'Lord, open to us!' then He will answer you, 'I do not know where you are from [for you are not of My household].' 26 "Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets'; 27 but He will say to you, 'I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS!'

V24 God's way is narrow. It is HIS way. NOT our way. It is not broad and wide.

Joshua 24:14-15, 19-20, 23 AMP - 14 "Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and in truth; remove the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the [Euphrates] River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. 15 "If it is unacceptable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." ...

19 Then Joshua said to the people, "You will not be able to serve the LORD [if you serve any other gods], for He is a holy God; He is a jealous God [demanding what is rightfully and uniquely His]. He will not forgive your transgression [of His law] or your sins.

20 "If you do abandon (reject) the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume and destroy you after He has done you good." ...

23 "Now then, remove the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your hearts toward the LORD, the God of Israel."

Today we have made OUR IDEAS into gods that we put before God.

Matthew 13:22 AMP - 22 "And the one on whom seed was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the **worries and distractions of the world** and the deceitfulness [the superficial pleasures and delight] of riches choke the word, and it yields no fruit.

God wants us to bear fruit! Just knowing God's way is NOT enough. We must live it and put it

into practice. We must do it and bear fruit.

John 15:2, 4, 8, 16 AMP -

2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that continues to bear fruit, He [repeatedly] prunes, so that it will bear more fruit [even richer and finer fruit]. ...

4 "Remain in Me, and I [will remain] in you. Just as no branch can bear fruit by itself without remaining in the vine, **neither can you [bear fruit, producing evidence of your faith] unless you remain in Me.** ...

8 "My Father is glorified and honored by this, when you bear much fruit, and prove yourselves to be My [true] disciples.

16 "You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed and placed and purposefully planted you, so that you would go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit will remain and be lasting, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name [as My representative] He may give to you.

Matthew 7:18-19 AMP - 18 "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Lessons in the parable of the 5 wise and foolish virgins:

Matthew 25:1-12 AMP - 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins, who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 "Five of them were foolish [thoughtless, silly, and careless], and five were wise [far-sighted, practical, and sensible]. 3 "For when the foolish took their lamps, **they did not take any [extra] oil with them,** 4 but the wise took flasks of oil along with their lamps. 5 "Now while the bridegroom was delayed, they all began to nod off, and they fell asleep. 6 "But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! The bridegroom [is coming]! Go out to meet him.' 7 "Then all those virgins got up and put their own lamps in order [trimmed the wicks and added oil and lit them]. 8 "But the foolish virgins said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.' 9 "But the wise replied, 'No, otherwise there will not be enough for us and for you, too; go instead to the dealers and buy oil for yourselves.' 10 "But while they were going away to buy oil, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut and locked. 11 "Later the others also came, and said, 'Lord, Lord, open [the door] for us.' 12 "But He replied, 'I assure you and most solemnly say to you, I do not know you **[we have no relationship].**'

How do we get "oil"? How do we build a relationship with God and Christ?

BY STUDYING THEIR WORD!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-21 AMP - 16 Rejoice always and delight in your faith; 17 be unceasing and persistent in prayer; 18 in every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful and continually give thanks to God; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. 19 **Do not quench [subdue, or be unresponsive to the working and guidance of] the [Holy] Spirit.** 20 Do not scorn or reject gifts of prophecy or prophecies [spoken revelations--words of instruction or exhortation or warning]. 21 But test all things carefully [so you can recognize what is good]. Hold firmly to that which is good.

2 Timothy 2:15-16 AMP - 15 Study and do your best to present yourself to God approved, a workman [tested by trial] who has no reason to be ashamed, accurately handling and skillfully teaching the word of truth. 16 But avoid all irreverent babble and godless chatter [with its profane, empty words], for it will lead to further ungodliness,

Hebrews 10:23-26, 36-39 AMP - 23 Let us seize and hold tightly the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is reliable and trustworthy and faithful [to His word]; 24 and let us consider [thoughtfully] how we may encourage one another to love and to do good deeds, 25 **not forsaking our meeting together** [as believers for worship and instruction], as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more [faithfully] as you see the day [of Christ's return] approaching. 26 For if we go on willfully and deliberately sinning after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice [to atone] for our sins [that is, no further offering to anticipate], ...

36 For you have need of patient endurance [to bear up under difficult circumstances without compromising], so that when you have carried out the will of God, you may receive and enjoy to the full what is promised. 37 FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.

38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE [the one justified by faith] SHALL LIVE BY FAITH [respecting man's relationship to God and trusting Him]; AND IF HE DRAWS BACK [shrinking in fear], MY SOUL HAS NO DELIGHT IN HIM.

39 But our way is not that of those who shrink back to destruction, but [we are] of those who believe [relying on God through faith in Jesus Christ, the Messiah] and by this confident faith preserve the soul.

Conclusion:

Who does God know?

Psalms 34:18 KJV - 18 The LORD [is] nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psalms 51:17 KJV - 17 The sacrifices of God [are] a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Isaiah 66:2 KJV - 2 For all those [things] hath mine hand made, and all those [things] have been, saith the LORD: **but to this [man] will I look, [even] to [him that is] poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.**

Isaiah 66:1-5 NLT - 1 This is what the LORD says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Could you build me a temple as good as that? Could you build me such a resting place? 2 My hands have made both heaven and earth; they and everything in them are mine. I, the LORD, have spoken! "I will bless those who have humble and contrite hearts, who tremble at my word.

The warning:

3 But those who choose their own ways--delighting in their detestable sins--will not have their offerings accepted. When such people sacrifice a bull, it is no more acceptable than a human sacrifice. When they sacrifice a lamb, it's as though they had sacrificed a dog! When they bring an offering of grain, they might as well offer the blood of a pig. When they burn frankincense, it's as if they had blessed an idol. 4 I will send them great trouble--all the things they feared. For when I called, they did not answer. When I spoke, they did not listen. They deliberately sinned before my very eyes and chose to do what they know I despise." 5 Hear this message from the LORD, all you who tremble at his words: "Your own people hate you and throw you out for being loyal to my name. 'Let the LORD be honored!' they scoff. 'Be joyful in him!' But they will be put to shame.

Isaiah 57:15 KJV - 15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name [is] Holy; **I dwell in the high and holy [place], with him also [that is] of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite**

ones.

Isaiah 57:14-15 NLT - 14 God says, "Rebuild the road! Clear away the rocks and stones so my people can return from captivity."

15 The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: "I live in the high and holy place **with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts.**

Final conclusion:

Build your relationship now with God and Christ, while you still have the time to do so. THEN, rather than saying "*I never knew you*" He will be able to say...

'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' (Matthew 25:21 NKJV)

Revelation 22:6 KJV - 6 And he said unto me, These sayings [are] faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants[G1401] the things which must shortly be done.

Do you view yourself as a servant of God and Jesus Christ?