


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Ask, Seek, Knock, and the Door Will Be Opened

⁷"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Q1. Ask and Seek and Knock: This verse is famous for the acronym (ASK) that it spells. What do you think Jesus means with each word?

Ask?


.....
Seek?

.....
Knock?



Jesus knocking at the door ([Revelation 3:20](#))

<https://free-christian-wallpapers.blogspot.com/2010/02/great-god-jesus-christ-posters.html>


 The illustration – Jesus knocking at the door – depicts our Savior's persistence in seeking us. We simply need to open the door! Such a simple action – open the door! However, few people actually accept Jesus's offer. In six verses we will study Jesus's words: "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." [Matthew 7:13-14](#).


Lesson 12: Matthew 7:7-29

We, too, must prayerfully *ask*. Then, *seek*; through additional prayer, by studying the Bible seeking wisdom, by seeking help from other people. Then, *knock*; by fervent supplication through prayer, by pushing aside pride and accepting help from other people.

Ask, seek, and knock are action verbs that denote an increasing intensity, an escalation, of action.

And we must always examine our motives. God looks into our hearts and will give us that which glorifies Him and is for our good according to His purpose. God is not, and will never be, a vending machine, or an online catalog in which we simply select our items and expect immediate fulfillment.

 Another commentator taught: *Ask, seek, and knock*: “We ask for what we wish; we seek for what we miss; we knock for that from which we feel ourselves shut out.” [©1882, *A Commentary, Critical, Practical, and Explanatory on the Old and New Testaments* by Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset and David Brown; <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/matthew/7-7.htm>, accessed: 04/16/2026.]

 And another wrote: *Ask, seek, and knock*: “The phrases signify to seek with earnestness, diligence, and perseverance. The promise is, that what we seek shall be given us. It is of course implied that we seek with a proper spirit, with humility, sincerity, and perseverance. It is implied, also, that we ask the things which it may be consistent for God to give - that is, things which he has promised to give, and which would be best for us, and most for his own honor, [1 John 5:14](#). Of that God is to be the judge. And here, there is the utmost latitude which a creature can ask. God is willing to provide for us, to forgive our sins, to save our souls, to befriend us in trial, to comfort us in death, to extend the gospel through the world. Man ‘can’ ask no higher things of God; and these he may ask, assured that he is willing to grant them.” [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/matthew/7-7.htm>, accessed: 04/16/2026.]

Q2. (Verse 8) ***For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened:*** What are the promises?

A S K S = R ___ ___ E ___ ___ E S

S E E K S = F ___ ___ ___ S

K N O C K S = D ___ ___ R O ___ ___ ___ D

⁹"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Q3. (Verses 9 & 10) ***Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone . . . Or . . . for a fish, . . . a snake:*** This seems to be a bizarre comparison. Why is Jesus making the distinction between a loving parent who gives their best to their child versus something harmful (*a stone, a snake*)?


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Q4. (Verse 11) ***If you, then, though you are evil:*** ① Why is Jesus calling members of His audience *evil*? (Hint: Does sin have a role?) ② Does this accusation of *evil* extend to us in our present age?

① Why "evil"?

② Extend to us? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

The Golden Rule

¹² So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Q5. ***The Prophets:*** Can you name any of the prophets whom Jesus might be thinking about? (Hint: examine the names among the books of the Old Testament.)

Q6. Do to others what you would have them do to you: What does this statement mean to you?

Q7. ***Do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law:*** If we narrow the definition of *the Law* to the Ten Commandments, how accurately does Jesus's statement reflect *the Law*?

Exodus 20:3-17 [NIV-1984]

[The Ten Commandments]

① ³ "You shall have no other gods before me.

② ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my

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commandments.

③ ⁷ "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

④ ⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

⑤ ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

⑥ ¹³ "You shall not murder.

⑦ ¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

⑧ ¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

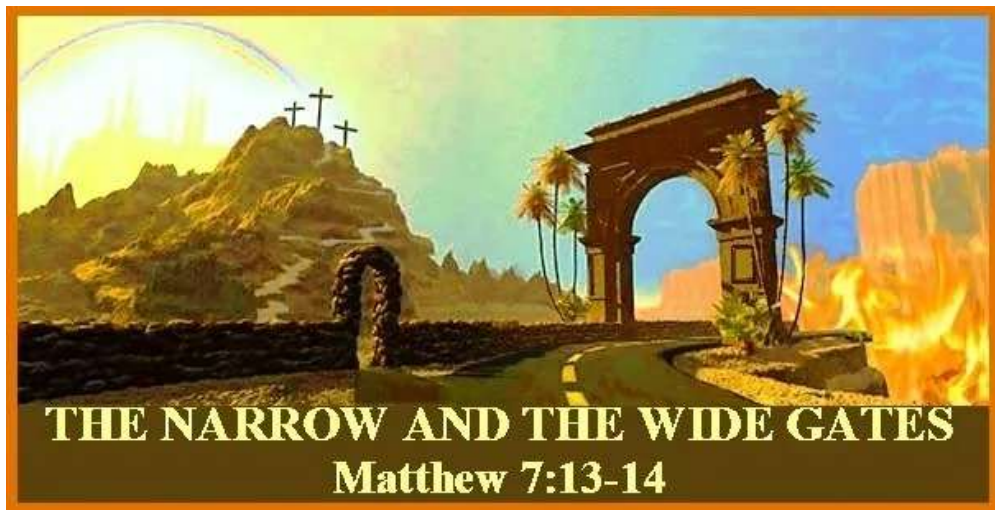
⑨ ¹⁶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

⑩ ¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

The Wide Versus Narrow Gates

¹³ "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Q8. **Enter through the narrow gate:** Who/what does the narrow gate represent?



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Q9. (Apologetics) ***But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life:*** If God is love, why didn't Jesus teach the exact opposite: 'wide is the gate to Heaven, and narrow is the road to hell' and that 'narrow road' is reserved for terrible people like Adolf Hitler, Josef Stalin, Mao Zedong, and Genghis Kahn (<https://history.howstuffworks.com/historical-figures/worst-people-in-history.htm>)?

Thoughts?

1 John 4:8 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Recognize True and False Prophets By Their Fruit

¹⁵ "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

Q10. ***Watch out for false prophets:*** How would you define "false prophet"?

Q11. ***They come to you in sheep's clothing:*** When you think of a Believer in Christ Jesus, do you think of them as "*sheep*" or a "*wolf*"?

Sheep? Wolf? Why?

Q12. ***Watch out for false prophets . . . they are ferocious wolves:*** Why does Jesus call "false prophets . . . ferocious wolves"?

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^{16a} By their fruit you will recognize them.

Q13. **By their fruit you will recognize them:** Generally speaking, what is “fruit” in this context?

.....

Q14. **By their fruit you will recognize them:** Jesus has been teaching about “false prophets”. Will you list some examples of “their fruit” so that we can better “recognize them”?

①


②


③

④

.....

Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

 Jesus is now moving from a focus on “false prophets” to a view that includes everyone: both Believers and nonbelievers.

^{16b} Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

Q15. **Every good tree bears good fruit:** This is obviously a metaphor. ① Who (or what) is a “good tree”? ② What might be examples of “good fruit”?

① Who (or what) is a “good tree”?

② What might be examples of “good fruit”?

.....

Galatians 5:22–23 [NIV-1984]

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Q16. **A bad tree bears bad fruit:** ① Who (or what) is a “bad tree”? ② What might be examples of “bad fruit”?

① Who (or what) is a “bad tree”?

② What might be examples of “bad fruit”?

.....

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Galatians 5:19-21 [NIV-1984]

¹⁹ The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Q17. ***A bad tree cannot bear good fruit:*** If a “tree” is a metaphor for a human being and “fruit” means deeds or actions, then from a Heavenly perspective is the philanthropy from a wealthy nonbeliever considered “good fruit” or “bad fruit”?


“Good fruit”? Or “bad fruit”? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Matthew 5:16 [NIV-1984]

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

James 2:26 [NIV-1984]

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

 Throughout the *Sermon on the Mount*, Jesus questions motives. If a nonbeliever provides wonderful philanthropy, what is their motivation? “God knows your heart.” ([Luke 16:15](#))

Do they want their name on a building?

Do they seek accolades from their peers or family members? ([Matthew 6:1](#))

Does their gift honor God and give Him the glory? ([1 Chronicles 29:11-13](#), [Matthew 6:9-10](#); [Colossians 3:17](#))

Do they recognize that “their” wealth is, in itself, a God-given gift to be managed by them? ([Matthew 25:29](#))


1 Chronicles 29:11-13 [NIV-1984]

¹¹ Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. ¹² Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. ¹³ Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

Colossians 3:17 [NIV-1984]

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Q18. ***By their fruit you will recognize them:*** What is your understanding of servanthood?

 **Definition:** servanthood or servanthship n.

1. the condition of being a servant

Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition. © 2014 by HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014. <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/servanthood>, accessed: 04/20/2026.

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Definition: servant n.

1. One who is privately employed to perform domestic services.
2. One who is publicly employed to perform services, as for a government.
3. One who expresses submission, recognizance, or debt to another: your obedient servant.

American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/servant>, accessed: 04/20/2026.

Q19. (**Personal** not to be discussed in a group) ***A good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit:***
Looking through the mirror of Scripture, do you consider yourself a “good tree” or “bad tree”?

Are you a “good tree”? Or a “bad tree”?

Q20. (**Personal** not to be discussed in a group) ***A good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit:***
Looking through the mirror of Scripture, do you consider your words and actions “good fruit” or “bad fruit”?


Do you produce “good fruit”? Or “bad fruit”?

Matthew 3:7-10 [International Children’s Bible (ICB)]

⁷ Many of the Pharisees and Sadducees came to the place where John was baptizing people. When John saw them, he said: “You are snakes! Who warned you to run away from God’s anger that is coming? ⁸ You must do the things that show that you have really changed your hearts and lives. ⁹ And don’t think that you can say to yourselves, ‘Abraham is our father.’ I tell you that God could make children for Abraham from these rocks. ¹⁰ The ax is now ready to cut down the trees. Every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

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Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Q21. Is Jesus providing a warning to us as Believers?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

John 15:6 [NIV-1984]

[Jesus taught:]

If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.


Revelation 20:11-15 [NIV-1984]

[The Great White Throne Judgment]

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

 After I've done something or said something, I look in the 'mirror of Scripture' and wonder if I my actions or my words . . . are good? Or bad? Invariably, I come down hard on myself and think that there is no way that during the Great White Throne Judgment God will look with pleasure on me with a "*Well done, good and faithful servant!*" ([Matthew 25:21, 23](#))

I am then reminded of verses in Ephesians, and my soul is comforted: "*And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.*" (Ephesians 1:13-14.)

Whew! Thank You, God, for Your eternal plan of salvation; You do not 'pass/fail' my entry into Heaven based upon what I've done or not done, said or not said. My entry is based on whether I believe in the saving grace of Christ Jesus, my Lord, my Savior! Alleluia! My name is written in The Book of Life! Jesus states in Revelation 3:5^b "I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels." And I know that Jesus knows my name; see John 10:2-7 (↓).

John 10:2-7 [NIV-1984]

¹ "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.

² The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. ³ The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he

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has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

⁵ But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. ⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep."



My salvation is assured, because I believe. I believe in the one true Redeemer, the Son of God, Christ Jesus of Nazareth, and I greatly anticipate Paradise!!! Do you?

²⁰ Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Q22. What test do you use to discern if a person is preaching the true Gospel, or a perverted version?



This commentator is reminded of a song written in 1966 titled "*They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*". The song was written by Peter Scholtes, and the lyrics were inspired by [John 13:35](#). Several verses appear below:

Chorus: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

Chorus: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We Will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride.

Chorus: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Author: Peter Scholtes

Version by Peter Scholtes: <https://www.riseupsinging.org/song-video/version-peter-scholtes>, accessed: 04/20/2026.

Lyrics: 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 Lorenz Publishing Company (Admin. by Lorenz Corporation),

Music: 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 Lorenz Publishing Company (Admin. by Lorenz Corporation)

<https://wordtoworship.com/song/14526>, accessed: 04/20/2026.

1 John 5:2-3 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is God's child. The person who loves the Father also loves the Father's children. ² How do we know that we love God's children? We know because we love God and we obey his commands. ³ Loving God means obeying his commands. And God's commands are not too hard for us.

Genesis 1:27 [NIV-1984]

So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

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Q23. (**Personal** not to be discussed in a group) *By their fruit you will recognize them*: Please pray: “Lord, please reveal Your holy and divine Truth to me, Amen.”, then look at your heart and answer:

① If a politician states, “I am a ‘Christian’, and supports policies that hurt people (deporting of legal immigrants; halting famine-relief for things like ‘Plumpy’Nut’, which is used to treat severe acute malnutrition, vaccines, or birth control; gutting of public health programs; etc.), do you accept (and defend) their choices? ([1 Corinthians 5:12](#))

② If a woman states that she had an abortion, do you judge and condemn her? ([1 Corinthians 5:12](#))

① Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

② Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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

Q24. Only he [or she] who does the will of my Father: How are we to discern God’s will?

Matthew 25:33-45 [NIV-1984]

³³ He [the Son of Man (Jesus)] Will put the sheep [good] on his right and the goats [bad] on his left.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

⁴⁴ "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

⁴⁶ "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."



Jesus knows our hearts. Jesus knows that we need to hear these principles more than once. Even then, despite

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His repetition, we fail.

Who has thought, as we've studied these past verses, that Jesus's teachings are repetitive and . . . boring?

We humans seem to compartmentalize our thoughts. We frequently place Jesus's teachings into a container in our minds, shut the door, and then go about our merry way. ("A Sunday-every-week 'Christian' is a weak-every-day Christian." Thanks to tremain.us, all rights reserved, accessed: 05-02-2026.)

Through these verses, Jesus has repeatedly warned us to examine our motives. We must understand His desire for us! We must obey Him! We must obey His teachings!

We must be willing to open the compartment in our minds that contains the teachings of Jesus and allow His teachings to seep into all of the compartments in our mind. All our thoughts must be brought under the control of Christ Jesus, our Lord, our Savior, the Son of God the Father, Almighty.

We are Christians by His love.

"And they'll know we are Christians by our love. (©Peter R. Scholtes)".

When Russell Moore, the editor-in-chief of *Christianity Today*, was interviewed on NPR, he told a chilling story about preaching. A number of pastors, he said, had reported to him essentially the same experience. They would be preaching on a passage like the Sermon on the Mount, including sayings such as "turn the other cheek," "blessed are the merciful," or "love your enemies," only to find themselves sharply attacked at the church door.

—————
"Where'd you get that nonsense?!?!" some aggrieved parishioner inevitably would ask.

—————
"From Christ Jesus," the startled pastor would respond. "I was literally quoting Christ Jesus."

—————
Far from mumbling an embarrassed apology, the critic would instead walk away, scoffing,
"Yeah, but that doesn't work anymore. That's weak."

A cautionary tale


Meme is from the 'Clergy Coaching Network', Facebook, January, 2024

And is based on an NPR Interview dated August 5, 2023:

<https://www.npr.org/2023/08/05/1192374014/russell-moore-on-altar-call-for-evangelical-america>, accessed: 04-22-2026.

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Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Those Whom Jesus Knows

²² Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'

²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evil-doers!'

Q25. ***'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'***: ① What is missing from the person's actions? (See [John 10:2-7](#) ↑)
② Do other verses come to mind that identify 'what is missing'?

① What is missing?

② Other verses?

Hebrews 11:1 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

Faith means being sure of the things we hope for. And faith means knowing that something is real even if we do not see it.

Q26. ***'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'***: If a person performed these kinds of miracles AND Christ Jesus did not know them, then by whose authority were they performing those miracles?

James 2:19 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

You believe there is one God. Good! But the demons believe that, too! And they shake with fear.

Q27. ***'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'***: Why would Christ Jesus deny knowing the person who prophesied, drove out demons, and performed miracles in His Name? (After all, they called upon His Name when they performed their miracles.)

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Q28. *'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'*: Imagine. How would you describe this denial? (What must the person feel?)



“Christ says that ‘on that day’ some judged to be non-believers will protest. ‘That day’, when used in the New Testament in the context of future events, often refers to the ‘day of the Lord’ when Christ will return to establish His kingdom on earth. In broad strokes, this is a reference to the point where a person is judged by God.

“The complaint of some people, Jesus says, will be that they performed all kinds of impressive deeds — doesn't that prove they deserve heaven? As Christ goes on to state in the next verse, it does not (Matthew 7:23). It is possible to declare one's allegiance to Christ, to serve others supposedly in His name, and to do so without legitimately trusting in Christ for salvation. Jesus indicated that the first and foremost ‘work’ demanded by God is belief in His Son ([John 6:28–29](#)).

“This statement comes after Jesus declared that good actions, themselves, are not righteous unless motivated by sincerity and truth ([Matthew 6:1, 5, 16](#)). It also follows His warning that false believers can be identified — to others — by their spiritual fruit ([Matthew 7:15–20](#)). The only means to assess the spirituality of others is what they say and do ([1 Samuel 16:7](#)). We can, and should, do this ([1 John 4:1](#); [John 7:24](#)), but always with a recognition of our own fallible nature ([Matthew 7:1–5](#)). Our own hearts, however, we can judge according to motives — and we should do so ([2 Corinthians 13:5](#)).” [© Copyright 2002-2026 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/7/Matthew-7-22.html>, accessed: 04-24-2026.]

Build on the Rock Foundation of Faith

²⁴ "Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

Q29. *House . . . had its foundation on the rock*: Imagine building a house, ① would you want your house built on a foundation of rock? ② Or built on a foundation of sand?

① Rock foundation? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

② Sand foundation? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Q30. *House . . . had its foundation on the rock*: Suppose the house you imagined represents your faith, ① would you want your faith built on a foundation of rock? ② Or built on a foundation of sand?

① Rock foundation? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

② Sand foundation? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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Q31. **House . . . had its foundation on the rock:** As you consider Jesus's teachings: ① What does the foundation of rock represent? ② What might the foundation of sand represent?

① Rock foundation represents?

② Sand foundation represents?

John 14:6 [NIV-1984]


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

Q32. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall: What might the "rain" and "wind" represent?

John 16:33 [NIV-1984]

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Q33. **Wise [person] . . . foolish [person]:** In Jesus's illustration: ① Who is the "wise [person]"? ② Who is the "foolish [person]"?

① Who is the wise [person]? Why?

② Who is the foolish [person]? Why?

Lesson 12: Matthew 7:7-29

Q34. (Verse 26) What is the attribute that marks a “*wise [person]*”?

HE OR SHE H _____ S THESE

W _____ S OF M _____ E AND

P _____ S THEM INTO P _____ C _____ C _____

Matthew 7:21-23 [The Message (MSG)]

“Knowing the correct password — saying ‘Master, Master,’ for instance — isn’t going to get you anywhere with me. What is required is serious obedience — doing what my Father wills. I can see it now — at the Final Judgment thousands strutting up to me and saying, ‘Master, we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our super-spiritual projects had everyone talking.’ And do you know what I am going to say? ‘You missed the boat. All you did was use me to make yourselves important. You don’t impress me one bit. You’re out of here.’

Romans 10:13-15 [NIV-1984]

¹³ "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. [Joel 2:32]" ¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news! [Isaiah 52:7]"

Q35. *The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house:* The “rain” and “wind” represents “trials and tribulations” that we are promised in this life. Then, how are we to overcome the storms of “rain” and “wind” that dismantle our lives?

James 1:2-4 [NIV-1984]

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Lesson 12: Matthew 7:7-29

The Crowds Perceived Jesus' Authority

²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Q36. ***He taught as one who had authority***: Do you recognize the authority of Jesus?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

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