

Title: "Not Everyone"

Scripture: Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23

Speaker: Vic Redding

Event: Sunday Morning Service

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Matthew 7:13 *"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. 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."*

In our society, we are tolerant of everything. We want to be accepted. In education we tolerate the lack of real education and move students ahead of their time even when they aren't ready. In sports we tolerate disciplinary problems, lack of practice, and let players play despite these things. We have people who want equal pay but don't want to put forth the effort to earn that same wage. People are getting jobs today based on their nationality and color, not their abilities. We don't want to be intolerant of anyone. We have become so tolerant that we have become a nation of ignorant, underachieved people. We bring up these worldly facts because they have crept into the church. Too many people now feel that everyone is going to heaven. There is a major problem with that theology – it's biblically wrong.

#### **Five Truths Found in These Verses:**

1. **Not everyone will be saved (verse 21):** They can be saved, but they refuse. *"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."* We hear the phrase "we are all God's children." This is not biblical. It's not true. We are not all God's children. We are all God's creation but God's children are **saved** and know the father. John 1:12 says *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"* You aren't one of God's children until you become saved. Until that point comes, you are simply God's creation.
2. **There will be more people who die lost than those who are saved (verse 13):** There are two words in this verse – many and few. There will be many lost because they won't take the right path. He said the gate is wide – this means that this way is easiest. It is the road that leads to destruction and many take this road. The narrow road to Christ is less traveled. Isaiah 5:14 *"Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it."* Romans 3:23 says that all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God. Why will so many die lost? They don't see a reason for getting saved. They are what we call unrepentant.
3. **Many who are expecting to be saved will be lost (verse 22):** There are many who think they're going to heaven because they read their Bible, tithe, and are good to their neighbor, but this doesn't mean that they are guaranteed a place in heaven. If you are going to heaven, it is based entirely on your faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Verse 23 tells these people that he never knew them. He could have also said you never knew me. We put so much trust in religion that we push Christ out of the picture and expect to be saved by our actions. The word "knew" mentions in verse 23 refers to the union taken place in marriage. It is a biblical union. Genuine salvation is like a marriage. We become one with Christ when we are saved.

4. No one will be saved after death (verse 23): The Catholic religion teaches purgatory. This means that you spend a little while paying for your sin, but then when you've put your time in, you move forward to heaven. This is not true. Hebrews 9:27 says *"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"* It's sad when we try to justify our salvation based on our own works and doings.
5. Realize that this could be your last opportunity to be saved: Hebrews 4:7 says *"Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts."* This refers to our intentions. Many die with the intent of getting saved but they never do. We don't know when our time on earth will come to an end. If you put off getting right with God, your time might come to an end before you can get around to it. The road to hell is paved with good intentions. Romans 10:9-10 tells us how to share the gospel with others when it deals with them getting right with God. Verse 9: *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.* Verse 13 says *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*