

“Lord, Lord.”

Shocked! That’s how millions will feel when Judgment Day arrives! *“Not everyone,”* Jesus said, *“who says to Me Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of heaven,”* (Matthew 7:21).

There are many today who sincerely believe that merely being familiar with Jesus - knowing who He was - will merit their entrance into heaven. How shocked they will be, especially when they realise their own unbelief has condemned them!

The following parable helps to understand this shocking Bible teaching.

Almost every day, you see our Prime Minister on television. In fact, you may see him so much and so often that you feel you know him. Suppose that during a visit to your nation’s capital, you had an opportunity also to visit the residence of the Prime Minister. During your visit, the Prime Minister comes out and greets everyone in your group. In turn, everyone, including you, might say, “Hello, Prime Minister.” This cordial exchange would surely make you feel as if your Prime Minister knew you, at least a little bit.

A short time later, the Prime Minister passes through the crowd and asks certain visitors to enter his residence and dine with him. But he does not invite you in. You are shocked. You shout out the question, “I don’t understand. I thought I knew you so well. Why did you not invite me?” He then answers saying, “Not everyone who says ‘Hello Prime Minister’ is permitted entrance into my mansions, only those who have had a previous relationship with me by speaking to me regularly on the phone; those who listen intently to me speak my word; and, those who have sat down regularly to dine with me.”

This story illustrates the fact that no one will be saved by simply being familiar with Jesus. Great Bible scholars will not automatically be saved because they know a lot of facts about the Bible or about Jesus. On the Last Day, Jesus will invite into heaven only those who have spoken to Him regularly in prayer, those who have listened to Him regularly in sermons and Bible class, and those who have dined regularly with Him at His table and received His sin-cleansing body and blood. Even though others may say, “I know You,” Jesus will say, “I never knew you. Depart from Me!” (Matthew 7:23).

On the Last Day, what a shock it will be for multiple millions who thought they would be saved by just being familiar with Jesus and even thinking of Him often. “Not everyone,” Jesus said, “who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.” And what is the will of your heavenly Father? The Bible says that one day some people came to Jesus and said, “What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?” Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent,” (John 6:28-29).

God works faith in you through His Word, Baptism, and His Holy Supper. When He has given you faith, you can be absolutely sure that when Judgment Day arrives, and when Jesus steps forward to invite all believers into His heavenly mansions to dine eternally with Him, you will be included.

