

## Small Group Discussion Guide (2.11.24) — Read Matthew 7:21-23

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- What do all four of Jesus' warnings (vs. 13-27) have in common?
- Why is it, do you think, that there are so many people who are self-deceived into thinking they are saved, when in fact they are not? What are some of the contributing factors to this false assurance?
- What are some healthy, biblical ways of guarding ourselves, our families, and our churches from this?
- How must we carefully distinguish between salvation by grace through faith alone, and the necessary expression of saving faith in obedience to Jesus? What are the dangers on either end of the spectrum? What is the careful balance Jesus is calling for here in vs. 21-23?
- Where might you take someone in the Scripture in order to show them that obedience to Christ is the necessary expression of true saving faith?
- What does it mean to "*do the will of the Father?*" How has the Sermon on the Mount been an unpacking of "*The Golden Rule*" in Matthew 7:12? Or another way to ask it, how is doing the Father's will the command to love?
- What were some of the false assurances given in vs. 22? How could these be empty examples of a false conversion? How might we put these in our modern-day vernacular today?
- How can we guard ourselves against self-deception? Why is it important to do what 2 Corinthians 13:5 says, "Examine ourselves to see whether we are in the faith?"
- How were you challenged or convicted from today's sermon?
- Are you, or is someone you know, struggling with assurance of salvation? How could today's message actually be a spiritual help to them?