

The Pray More Advent Retreat Study Guide

Knowing & Doing the Will of the Father: Not Everyone Will Enter the Kingdom of Heaven by Pete Burak

Reflective Questions

The True Disciple. “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?’ Then I will declare to them solemnly, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.’

Matthew 7:21 - 23

1. We run the risk and will be exiled from the Lord if we don't know Him, if we don't follow Him and His commandments and His guidance in our lives. We have the option -- the choice, to choose Him or to choose ourselves or someone or something else. This isn't just a one-time choice either; it's one we have to continually make and re-make. How are you intentionally choosing God today? How can you intentionally choose to know Him better this Advent and beyond?
2. Matthew lists out a number of things they've done that we would consider only holy people do -- things like driving out demons in Jesus' name and doing mighty deeds in His name. But at the end of the day, Jesus says, “You did not know me.” If we take a good look at our own lives, we might easily find that we also do good things -- holy things, but lack knowing Jesus in an intimate sense. What are some real ways you can work on that relationship with Him during Advent? Do you find that you prioritize doing things instead of being with Jesus?
3. Jesus came to reveal the Father to us, to create a pathway to being united with Him. He wants to demonstrate that our path to holiness and to salvation is obedience to the Father's will. How can you come to know the Father's will better? How can you choose to follow it? In what ways have you been resisting doing so?

4. God the Father's will for our life is to listen to His son, to follow His son and to obey His son. And Jesus constantly tells us that we are His disciples when we are obedient to Him. Read through the commandments and the beatitudes. Which one, or a few of those, do you need to improve on the most? Ask Jesus to help you this Advent to work on those areas.
5. Pete shares these two questions to help us live in accordance with God's will in a more intentional way, and they are: "What is God saying to me?" and "What am I doing about it?" What do your answers look like today?