A FALSE SENSE OF PEACE
(Matt 7:21-23)

A. These are solemn words; words of warning.
   1. Word stated with authority.

B. Jesus has come to the Grand Conclusion.
   1. He pointed the way (7:13-14).
   2. He warned about false voices (7:15-20).

[What is the principle message of this statement?]

I. THE MAIN POINTS

A. Not salvation through works alone!
   1. “But he who does the will of My Father”

B. To make aware of self-deception (delusion).

   1. A false sense of security.
   2. A false sense of peace.
      a. …that one is saved when he is not.
      b. …having relied on false evidence.
   3. Notice what seemed to be, with what was.

C. A secondary lesson: Righteousness (Holiness)
   1. That was the reason for the Sermon.

Matthew 5:20
20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes & Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Hebrews 12:14
14 Pursue peace with all men, & [nkjv, holiness] the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

[By listening to Jesus, they & we do not need to be deceived --- by ourselves or by anybody else.]
II. WHAT LEADS TO SELF-DECEPTION (FALSE PEACE)

A. **Surprisingly**: Belief in the Lord.

Matthew 7:21
21 *Not everyone 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 will enter.*

1. They were correct on that vital point:

2. They recognized Jesus to be “Lord”.

   a. They believed His divine nature.

   b. They knew His authority.

   c. They trusted His promises.

   (Matt 10:32-33; Acts 2:21)
   (John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15)
   (John 14:1-6)

   d. Jesus did not criticize them for that.

3. But that’s not all there is to salvation.

   a. The demons believe as much.

   (James 2:19; Mark 3:11; Acts 19:15)
   (Matt 8:29; Mark 1:24; Luke 4:41)

4. Danger! Trusting our faith.

5. Danger! Trusting the faith of others.

[What else leads to self-deception?]

B. **Surprisingly**: Zeal [fervor] for the Lord.

Matthew 7:22
22 *Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, & in Your name cast out demons, & in Your name perform many miracles?’*

1. These were not just passive “believers”.

2. They were enthusiastic believers.

3. There was emotion in their voices.
4. And so what was their problem?

   a. We have difficulty seeing it.

   b. But Jesus could see it.

   c. They were enthusiastic & emotional.

   - About the wrong things.

   - About what they thought they had done for Him.

[One preacher said, “Today I missed some fine opportunities of speaking a word for Christ.

[But] The Lord saw that I would have spoke as much for my own honor as for His, & therefore He shut my mouth.

I see that a man cannot be a faithful, fervent minister until he preaches just for Christ’s sake, until he gives up trying to attract people to himself, & seeks to attract them to Christ. Lord, give me this. (Robert Murray McCheyne)

I think we can be just as enthralled, & more so, in the preacher, as we are in the message preached.

This is a principle that applies to more than just preaching, but to all Christian conduct & service.]

[There is a third point Jesus made as to what leads to self-deception with regard to their salvation?]

C. **Surprisingly**: Works for the Lord.

1. They Prophesied in His name!

   a. They taught a “Biblical” message.

   b. Can you do that & **NOT** be in the k’dom?

      - Balaam (Num 22-25; 31:16)

      - King Saul (1 Sam 10;10-11; 18; 19)

1 Corinthians 9:27
27 but I discipline my body & make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified. (cf. 1 Cor 13:1-3)

Philippians 1:15-18
15 Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy & strife, but some also from good will; 16 the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; 17 the former proclaim Christ **out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives**, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; & in this I rejoice. Yes, & I will rejoice,
2. They claimed to cast out demons.

   a. Can you do that & NOT be in the k’dom?

*Luke 9:1
9 And He called the twelve together, & gave them power & authority over all the demons & to heal diseases. [JUDAS TOO!]

Luke 11:19
19 And if I [Jesus] by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? So they will be your judges.

Acts 19:13-16
13 But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, “I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.” 14 Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 And the evil spirit answered & said to them, “I recognize Jesus, & I know about Paul, but who are you?” 16 And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them & subdued all of them & overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked & wounded.

3. They claimed to work miracles [wonders].

   a. Can you do that & NOT be in the k’dom?

Exodus 7:11-12

11 Then Pharaoh also called for the wise men & the sorcerers, & they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same with their secret arts. 12 For each one threw down his staff & they turned into serpents. But Aaron’s staff swallowed up their staffs.

*Matthew 24:24
24 For false Christs & false prophets will arise & will show great signs & wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-10
8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth & bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power & signs & false wonders, 10 & with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

[These wonders were no surprise to God, all power stems from Him, even among the demons --- and what He allows to happen on earth is up to Him.

But it proves that having such abilities does not imply that one is in the Kingdom of God. Many today who claim to have submitted to Jesus Christ ALSO claim to work miracles in His name.

So are we to believe in their power?

Absolutely not, because having miraculous power was the “sign of an apostle” or that one had been in the presence of an apostle of Christ.
2 Corinthians 12:12
12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs & wonders & miracles.

Acts 8:18
18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money,

So if the person has NOT been in the presence of an apostle, & this person claims to work miracles --- then He’s among the ones Jesus is talking to in our text (Matt 7:21-23).

III. JESUS WILL UNSETTLE THE PEACE OF MANY

A. Jesus came to bring peace on His terms.

1. Many followers want peace on their terms.

Matthew 7:23
23 “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’

a. They believed in Him.

b. They were zealous for Him.

c. They worked for Him.

[Now if people can be so easily self-deceived, how important is it for us to watch our step?]