



Scriptures: Matthew 7:21-23, John 6:28-29

Main Idea: The way into Heaven is by **knowing** Jesus!

[Teacher note: Google “Harlow solid” font download and make sure you add it to your computer otherwise the PowerPoint presentation will not have the right font for all of the slides.]

Good evening, everyone, and welcome! If you don’t know who I am, my name is [name], and I am the [your position] here at [your church]. I am excited that you are here because God has something for you tonight and I hope you are ready for it! Our lesson tonight is titled “Claim to Heaven.”

Let’s get started! [Open in prayer.]

Introduction: There is this new reality TV show called “Claim to Fame.” Has anyone here seen it? If you haven’t, let me explain the basis of the show: relatives of celebrities all go into a house to try to win \$100k. The last one standing wins it all. It starts with 14 contestants. Every week a different contestant in the house tries to guess who the other contestants’ celebrity relatives are. If they are right and guess your celebrity relative, you go home. But if they are wrong, the person guessing goes home. Every week, the people in the house are given clues to try to figure out who other people are, so it’s not like all the people are just blindly guessing. The show starts with everyone in the house giving two truths and one lie about their celebrity relative. So as a contestant, you have to guess who the other contestants are related to. The only way to get on this show is by who you know. You have to be related to a celebrity, but not distantly. People on the show have included Tom Hanks’ niece, Eddie Murphy’s daughter, Simone Biles’ sister, Brett Favre’s daughter, Zendaya’s cousin, and even Chuck Norris’ grandson. All these people have a direct relationship with their celebrity relative. I could not get on the show because I am not related to anyone like that.

Message: Have you ever thought about what might be the scariest Bible verse in the entire Bible? [Give the students time to answer with what they

[might think is the scariest verse or verses.](#)] To me, the scariest Bible verses are found in Matthew 7:21-23. Let's read that together tonight.

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'" Matthew 7:21-23(ESV)

I am not sure about you, but I know when I was in youth group, I was terrified by those verses. They can add a lot of stress to our lives. Raise your hand if you have ever not done God's will. You may even be in this room and are asking "what even is God's will?" Is Jesus saying that if we fail doing God's will all of the time that we are barred from heaven?

Let us see what the will of God truly is. Turn with me over to John 6:28-29.

28 Then they said to Him, "What must we do to be doing the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." John 6:28-29 (ESV)

Based on these verses, what would you say is the will of God?

So, if Jesus is saying that the ones who will be saved are the ones who do the will of the Father, then who do you think He is talking about when He is talking about those who he tells to depart from Him?

Jesus said He never knew them because he was establishing who He was talking about; those people who would not be allowed to enter the kingdom of Heaven. He was talking to those who didn't do the will of His Father. And as we just read, the will of the Father is for us to believe in Him whom He has sent. Simply put, the will of the Father is for us to believe in the redeeming work of the Son! When Jesus said He **never** knew them, He said that He never had a relationship with them!

The group that Jesus called workers of lawlessness was a group of people who did not have a personal relationship with Jesus. We know this because He says "I **never**" knew you. This was not a statement that was saying "I once knew you but now I don't." This would be like if I were to go to Tom

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