

## **Weekly Devotions: TO LOVE GOD IS TO OBEY HIM 3**

### **True Repentance Must Lead to Life of Obedience.**

There can be no salvation without repentance. True repentance is a change of heart, mind and will; from self-centeredness to God-centeredness, from rejecting God and His word to living in obedience to Him. DA Carson, Professor of New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, said, "It is true that no man enters the Kingdom of God because of his obedience, but it is equally true that no man enters the Kingdom who is not obedient. It is true that men are saved by God's grace through faith in Christ; but it is equally true that God's grace in a man's life inevitably results in obedience."

### **Read Matt 7: 15-23**

Jesus said in no uncertain terms in Matt 7:21; "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."

Jesus warned that even those who claim to be prophets, teachers and able to perform signs and wonder in His name may not enter God's Kingdom. He called them "workers of lawlessness" (23) and wolves who manipulate God's people to further their own interests. The word "lawlessness" basically means to reject God's law or word; refusing to submit to the word of God, hence, doing what is selfish, wrong and evil.

The essential quality of the true believer is not his / her loud verbal proclamations of faith, or his / her supernatural power or spiritual manifestations. The true believer is one who bears the fruit of a faithful and obedient life. Only such believers will enter God's Kingdom on the last day.

### *Questions to ponder*

1. What did Jesus say is the difference between a healthy and a diseased tree and what type of tree will be cut down and thrown into the fire (17-20)? What fruit is He referring to? Would Jesus see you as a healthy or diseased tree?
2. What crucial quality does a believer need to have to enter God's Kingdom (21)? What is the Father's will for all believers and in what ways are you doing the Father's will?
3. Why did Jesus refer to some of those with supernatural spiritual power as 'workers of lawlessness'? How do you distinguish between the true and false prophet / teacher (15-16, 23)?

Prepared by Rosalind Chen