

	Are All Religious People Saved?	
	Matthew 7:21-23	

	Introduction	
	- Many in the audience that listened to the sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7) were "religious." - Jesus made known to them the spiritual nature of His kingdom, and what God expected of the citizens of this kingdom - He revealed the instructions to mankind to enable them to have fellowship with God - In Chapter 7, He speaks of righteous judgments, "Ask ... seek ... knock," the narrow way, false teachers, and obedience to God. - Also the consequences of not obeying - Matthew 25:46 – "... eternal punishment"	

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	The Jews On Pentecost - Acts 2:1-12 – "devout men from every nation" - They had come to fulfil their religious obligations - After they had asked, "What does this mean," Peter then explained" (verse 12) - Acts 2:13-21 – "... everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" - Quoting their own familiar Scripture from Joel 2:28-32 he states, "This is that" - He then declares: - Acts 2:22-36 – "... God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus ..."	

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	The Jews On Pentecost - Acts 2:37 – "Brothers, what shall we do?" - These devout people were then told: - Acts 2:38-41 – "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins" - Were all the devout people saved? - cf. Acts 2:13 – "But others mocking, said ..." - cf. John 12:42 – "many even of the authorities ["rulers" ASV] believed in him" - But the obedient believers were saved - Acts 2:41 – "So those who received his word were baptized"	

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	The Jews On Pentecost Devout - Acts 2:5 – "Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven" They asked what they should do - Acts 2:37 – "... what shall we do?" They obeyed - Acts 2:41 – "So those who received his word were baptized"	

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	The Man From Ethiopia - Acts 8:26-39 – "He had come to Jerusalem to worship" - He traveled far - He read the Scriptures, knowing only the Old Testament - He asked an important question - Verse 31 – "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this ..." - He heard the preaching of the Gospel - Verse 35 – "Philip ... told him the good news about Jesus"	

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	The Man From Ethiopia • What do we learn from this man? • He applied these Scriptures to himself • Verse 36 – “What prevents me from being baptized?” • He obeyed by confessing his faith • Verse 37 – “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (ASV) • cf. Matthew 10:32 – “confess me before men” • He stopped the chariot • Verse 38 – “Philip ... baptized him” • He rejoiced at this • Verse 39 – “... went on his way rejoicing”	

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	The Man From Ethiopia • A religious man • Acts 8:27-28 – “He had come to Jerusalem to worship” • He had to be taught the truth • Acts 8:30-35 – “Do you understand what you are reading?” • He believed, confessed, and was baptized • Acts 8:36-38 – “he baptized him”	

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	Saul of Tarsus • He zealously persecuted Christians • Acts 8:3 – “Saul was ravaging the church” • cf. Acts 22:3 – “being zealous for God ...” • Though zealous, he was confronted by Jesus • Acts 9:1-4 – “why are you persecuting me?” • He asked an important question • Acts 22:10 – “What shall I do, Lord?” • He was instructed by Ananias and told: • Acts 22:12-16 – “Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name”	

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	Saul of Tarsus • A religious zealot • Acts 9:1-2 – “... breathing threats and murder against the disciples ...” • He had to change • Acts 26:16-18 – “... appoint you as a servant and witness ...” • He believed, confessed, and was baptized • Acts 22:16 – “Rise and be baptized ...”	

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	Cornelius • A Roman officer but a worshipper of God • Acts 10:1-2 – “a devout man who feared God” • In a vision he was told to send for Peter • Acts 10:5 – “bring one Simon who is called Peter” • He gathered his relatives and friends • Acts 10:22 – “to hear what you have to say” • Acts 11:13-14 – “he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved”	

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	Cornelius • He heard the Gospel proclaimed • Acts 10:34-43 – “... he commanded us to preach to the people ...” • The Holy Spirit came on them all • Acts 10:44-45 – “the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word” • Cornelius was baptized (and all the others) • Acts 10:46-48 – “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people” • cf. Acts 11:15-18 – “... when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ”	

Are All Religious People Saved?	
Cornelius	
• A devout man • Acts 10:2 – “a devout man who feared God with all his household” • He had to do something • Acts 10:5 – “And now send men to Joppa and bring ... Peter” • He was baptized for the remission of sins • Acts 10:48 – “baptized in the name ...”	

Summary			
Those On Pentecost	Ethiopian Eunuch	Saul Of Tarsus	Cornelius
Devout Acts 2:5	A Religious Man Acts 8:27-28	A Religious Zealot Acts 8:3; 9:1-2	A Devout Man Acts 10:2
Asked What To Do Acts 2:37 They Obeyed Acts 2:41	Had To Be Taught Acts 8:30-35 Was Baptized Acts 8:36-38	Had To Change Acts 9:5-6 Was Baptized Acts 22:16; 9:18	Had To Do Something Acts 10:5 Was Baptized Acts 10:48
All were religiously wrong			

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Conclusion	
• All four of these cases involved devout, religious, but lost, people • In every case, they were taught, they believed, and they obeyed the Gospel message by being baptized for the remission of their sins. • cf. Acts 2:38 – “for the forgiveness of your sins • John 1:12-13 – “he gave the right to become children of God”	

Obeying The Gospel
Hear the Word of God
► Romans 10:14 – “... how are they to hear without someone preaching?”
Believe the Gospel message about Jesus
► John 8:24 – “I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”

Obeying The Gospel
Repent of your sins
► Luke 13:3 – “... unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”
Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
► Matthew 10:32 – “Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven.”

Obeying The Gospel
Be immersed in water
► Mark 16:15-16 – “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved”
Remain faithful
► Matthew 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.”