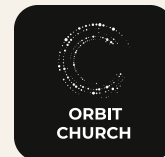


"I Never Knew You"

2026-04-13 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Luke 15

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Jesus gives one of his scariest warnings in Matthew 7: people who preached and drove out demons in his name will hear him say, I never knew you. Pastor Matt borrowed a line from the ancient preacher John Chrysostom: a full house does not fill the soul of one person. Serving, giving, and showing up are meant to flow out of an inner life with God, not stand in for one. And the honest test is failure. When you fall, does your soul kneel, or does it scramble to look fine?

To get started

- What is something you are good at that took private practice nobody ever saw?

Looking back at the message

This message could easily produce anxiety. Keep returning to what Jesus actually asks for.

- 1 Pastor Matt said the number of people in a building tells you nothing about the inner room of one person. What did that land on for you?
- 2 Pastor Matt said the church's five pathways, gather, grow, group, give, and go, are meant to flow out of an inner life with God, not replace one. When have you done the outside without the inside?
- 3 Pastor Matt described feeling more spiritually frail, not more confident, the longer he walks with God. What do you make of maturity feeling like that? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Matthew 7:21-23 aloud. Note what the people in it were doing, and in whose name.

- 4 Read Matthew 7:21-23. What do the people list about themselves, and what does Jesus say back?
- 5 Jesus says I never knew you, not you never did enough. What is the difference?
- 6 Verse 21 names doing the will of the Father. How is that different from religious activity?
- 7 Read Luke 18:9-14. What does the tax collector do, and what does Jesus say about him?

OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

The failure question is the sharpest one here. Give it room.

- 8 Chrysostom's test: when you fail, does your soul kneel, or does it work to recover its standing? Which is your instinct?
- 9 Pastor Matt swapped the question how much have I accomplished for how well do I know myself before God. What makes the second question uncomfortable?
- 10 What does your private life with God actually look like right now, in plain terms?
- 11 What do you do at church that has quietly become mostly habit? OPTIONAL

The group together

This is a place where a group can help without policing anyone.

- 12 Pastor Matt suggested starting with five minutes alone with God rather than promising forty-five. What small practice could this group actually keep?
- 13 How does a group encourage an inner life it cannot see?
- 14 How could this group respond to someone's failure in a way that sends them to God instead of to performing?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What five-minute practice will you try this week, and when in the day will it happen?

You might pray about

- For an inner life that matches the outer one
- For those who are tired from performing and would rather be known
- For mercy rather than confidence in our own standing
- For honesty when we fail, and a way back that is not more effort