

Jesus Allows Others to Exorcise Demons in His Name

A deep and important **tension in Scripture**:

- In **Mark 9:38–41**, Jesus tells the disciples *not to stop someone casting out demons in His name*, even if he isn't part of their group.
- But in **Matthew 7:21–23**, Jesus says to some who **prophesy, cast out demons, and perform miracles in His name**:
"I never knew you. Depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness."

So how do we reconcile these? Are these **contradictions** or **two kinds of people** doing similar things?

Let's Compare the Two Passages

	Mark 9:38–41	Matthew 7:21–23
Who is speaking?	John (disciple), reporting someone outside their group casting out demons	Jesus, warning about the final judgment
What is happening?	An unnamed person is casting out demons in Jesus' name and succeeding	People claim to have done great works in Jesus' name, including casting out demons
Jesus' response	"Do not stop him... Whoever is not against us is for us."	"Depart from Me, I never knew you."
Key difference	The person is doing good with humility , not seeking attention	These people are boasting , but Jesus calls them "lawless"

Key Differences Explained

1. Relationship vs. Reputation

- In **Mark 9**, the man is not part of the inner circle, but Jesus affirms his actions because they're **effective** and likely **genuine**.
- In **Matthew 7**, the people are using Jesus' name but **without truly knowing Him**—their works may be impressive, but their hearts are **disconnected** from obedience and intimacy with Jesus.

2. Fruit vs. Flash

- The man in Mark may have shown **humble fruit** (no self-promotion, simply doing good). The people in Matthew 7 are likely **focused on power**, not holiness—they're confident in their **performance**, but Jesus looks for **obedience and relationship**.

3. "In My Name" Doesn't Always Mean "With My Approval"

- Jesus warns in Matthew 24:24 that **false prophets** can perform signs.
- **Acts 19:13–16** tells of Jewish exorcists using Jesus' name without knowing Him—only to be attacked by demons.
- So Jesus' **name is powerful**, but it can be **misused** by those who don't belong to Him.

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The Common Thread: Misunderstanding True Discipleship

Both passages challenge assumptions about:

- **Who is truly with Jesus** (not just insiders).
- **What real faith looks like** (not just flashy deeds).
- **The danger of spiritual pride**, whether in excluding others (Mark 9) or boasting in works (Matthew 7).



Summary

Comparison Point	Mark 9:38–41	Matthew 7:21–23
Genuine faith?	Likely yes — the man is humbly serving	No — they rely on works without relationship
Attitude?	Quiet, faithful outsider	Boastful, self-assured
Jesus' verdict?	Affirmed: “Don’t stop him.”	Rejected: “I never knew you.”
Lesson?	Don’t exclude sincere outsiders doing good in Christ’s name	Don’t presume salvation based on works without true relationship



Final Connection

Jesus uses both situations to teach that **what matters is not who you are affiliated with, nor the power of your deeds—but the posture of your heart and your connection to Him.**

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Here's a comprehensive comparison chart of **New Testament verses that speak about rewards for believers**—covering key teachings from Jesus, Paul, and other apostles.

New Testament Rewards for Believers

Reference	Speaker / Author	Who Is Rewarded	Nature of Reward	Conditions or Context
Matthew 5:11–12	Jesus	Persecuted for righteousness	Great reward in heaven	Rejoice in persecution, for their reward is like the prophets'
Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18	Jesus	Those who give, pray, and fast in secret	Reward from the Father	Do these things privately, not to be seen by others
Matthew 10:41–42	Jesus	Those who receive a prophet or righteous person; give water to a disciple	Will not lose their reward	Even small acts toward God's people are honored
Matthew 16:27	Jesus	Everyone	Reward for what they have done	When the Son of Man returns with angels
Luke 6:35	Jesus	Those who love enemies, do good, lend without expecting	Great reward; called sons of the Most High	Imitating God's mercy
Luke 14:13–14	Jesus	Those who invite the poor, lame, blind to a banquet	Repaid at the resurrection of the righteous	Selfless generosity
1 Corinthians 3:8	Paul	Each laborer (evangelist or teacher)	Their own reward according to their labor	God assigns tasks; rewards vary by faithfulness
1 Corinthians 3:13–15	Paul	Builders on Christ's foundation	Reward or loss based on quality of work	Good works survive; poor works are burned
1 Corinthians 9:17–27	Paul	Faithful ministers	A reward; an imperishable crown	Discipline, purpose, preaching without self-gain
2 Corinthians 5:10	Paul	All believers	Recompense for deeds in body (good or bad)	At the judgment seat of Christ
Colossians 3:23–24	Paul	Believers who serve as to the Lord	Inheritance from the Lord	Faithful service, even in lowly roles
1 Thessalonians 2:19–20	Paul	The church itself (as Paul's joy and crown)	Crown of rejoicing	Faithfulness in discipling others

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2 Timothy 4:8	Paul	All who love Christ's appearing	Crown of righteousness	Finishing the race, keeping the faith
Hebrews 11:6	Unknown	Those who seek God	God rewards them	Must believe He exists and rewards seekers
Hebrews 10:35	Unknown	Those with confidence	Great reward	Perseverance amid suffering
James 1:12	James	Those who persevere under trial	Crown of life	Love for God proven in endurance
1 Peter 5:2–4	Peter	Faithful elders and shepherds	Crown of glory	Serve willingly, humbly, not for selfish gain
Revelation 2:10	Jesus	Faithful unto death	Crown of life	Endure persecution and remain faithful
Revelation 22:12	Jesus	Everyone	Reward according to what they have done	Final return of Christ with recompense

Observations

1. Rewards Are Both Present and Future

Some rewards are experienced **now** (joy, purpose, identity), while others are given **at Christ's return** (crowns, resurrection repayment).

2. Rewards Are Based on Faithful Obedience

Not salvation by works, but **faithfulness in Christ**—especially in hardship, humility, service, and love.

3. Crowns Are Symbolic

The New Testament describes different “crowns”:

- *Crown of righteousness* (2 Tim 4:8)
- *Crown of life* (James 1:12; Rev 2:10)
- *Crown of glory* (1 Pet 5:4)
- *Crown of rejoicing* (1 Thess 2:19–20)

4. God Sees the Hidden Things

Jesus emphasizes that even **small, secret acts** (like giving or praying quietly) are not missed by the Father (Matt 6).