

THE LAST WEEK OF THE LORD JESUS ON EARTH

IVg. Jesus' Final Day of Public Teaching (cont.)

Jesus Proclaims Truth (Part 7 mid Afternoon c. 2:30 P.M.)

Wednesday, 12th Nisán (April 1), A.D. 33 : False Religion

Mt. 22:34-40; Mk. 12:28-40; Lk. 20:39,40

Introduction: During the weeks before the observance of The Lord Jesus Christ's Resurrection we were studying each day of The Last Week in the physical life of The Lord Jesus Christ on Earth. For the last six lessons we have been studying what took place in the life of The Lord Jesus Christ on Wednesday, 12 Nisán (April 1) in the last week of His life on Earth. He began the day in the morning watch just before dawn (c. 6:00 A.M.). We have considered the first two sessions in which He taught the disciples three lessons in the early morning watch before dawn on the way to the Temple from before 6:00 A.M. to c. 7:30 A.M. and then in the Temple through the morning from 7:30 A.M. to the c. 11:00 A.M. He taught three more lessons, two on Fatal Wrath and one on Financial Responsibility.

A. Lessons Taught on the Way to The Temple (c. 5:50 to 7:15 A.M.).

The Lord Jesus and His disciples spent the night on the south west end of The Mount of Olives. On their way to The Temple, Jesus taught them three Lessons on Faith, Prayer, and Forgiveness.

B. His Ministry in The Temple (c. 7:30 A.M. to c. 6:00 P.M.).

When Jesus entered The Temple early in the morning and began teaching and evangelizing (Lk. 20:2). When the religious leaders (chief priests, scribes, and elders) approached Him, they inquired of Him about His authority. Jesus challenged them by answering with a question of His own about John the Baptizer (Mt. 21:23-27; Mk. 11:27-33; Lk. 20:1-8). After refusing to answer His question of them about John the Baptizer, Jesus told parables and began teaching lessons in eight categories: **Faithful Service, Fatal Wrath, Financial Responsibility, Future Living, False Religion, Fallible Recognition, Fatal Rebuke, and Faithful Giving.**

1. The Lesson on Faithful Service (c. 9:00 A.M.).

This parable indicated two kinds of obedience: Blatant Resistant Disobedience and Reserved Disobedience which is implied consent to do what the father ordered but failed to comply.

- a. The Particular Reference to which this parable is addressed is found in the answer Jesus gave to the religious leaders, who hypocritically claimed to be sons of God The Father and condemned tax collectors and harlots, both of whom they considered to be sinners and outcasts. The application that Jesus made placed these Jewish leaders in a more demeaned category than the outcast sinners whom they condemned because those outcast sinners committed trust in the message of John the Baptizer while these Jewish leaders in their hypocrisy would and did **not** commit trust in what John said, nor did they consider John the Baptizer to be a genuine prophet according to their own admission in their recent answer to Jesus' question.
- b. The Prevailing Principle is that all sinners who repent and persistently obey The Father God's will and commands shall pass on and enter into The Kingdom of The God before religious hypocrites, who do not live up to what they claim in their relationship to The God. Therefore all religious hypocrites shall not enter The Kingdom of The God but shall be punished eternally by perishing in The Lake of Fire.

2. The Lesson on Fatal Wrath (c. 10:00 A.M.) - Two Parables

a. **The Parable of the Housemaster and the Fruit of his Vineyard.**

This parable teaches that failure to render the fruits of the vineyard to The Housemaster results in **Fatal Wrath of Eternal Destruction.**

- (1) The Particular Reference is to the religious leaders of Israel, who determinedly willed to kill their Messiah as the religious leaders throughout the centuries did to the prophets who warned of the impending destruction to the nation and prophesied of The Promised Messiah. All of those qualifications for The Messiah were demonstrated as fulfilled by The Lord Jesus Christ, Who stood before them and Who was teaching them presently. Because of their rejection they shall be dashed to pieces, utterly flailed, scattered like chaff, and utterly destroyed (caused to perish) by The Messiah-Son when He returns to set up His Kingdom.
- (2) The Prevailing Principle in this parable is that we all shall be called into account for complete obedience to The Lord Jesus Christ's Commands to go and announce The Gospel throughout the whole Earth, make disciples, and teach them to completely fulfill His commands as well and thereby render to Him the fruits of their work of discipleship. Unless and until then, any claim to be His disciple-saints is false, misleading, and hypocritical.

b. **The Parable of the Wedding Feast** (c. 11:00 A.M.).

This parable teaches that failure to respond to the invitation to The Wedding Feast and wear the provided Wedding clothing results in **Fatal Wrath.**

- (1) The particular reference is to the religious leaders of Israel, who determinedly willed to kill their Messiah, who fulfilled all of the qualifications stipulated in The Old Testament Scriptures to be The coming Messiah-King Who shall reign over Israel, but Israel defiantly rejected Him and determined to have Him executed by crucifixion. Consequently The Messiah-King shall return and provide His Wedding Feast, since they shall not be wearing the wedding garment, The Robe of Righteousness which The Father provides they shall be cast into the outer dark and burn in the fire and brimstone forever.
- (2) The prevailing principle is that The God has prophesied of The Messiah's coming to provide Salvation for all nations. Out of those who **do** respond He shall establish a new nation, The Church composed of regenerated discipled-Jews and regenerated discipled-Gentiles, which shall replace the vineyard of Israel and will produce and render the fruits to Him in due season. All people of all nations are invited to the marriage feast which The Father provided for and through His Son. All those who respond to the invitation to The Gospel Feast and willingly wear the wedding garment, the Robe of Righteousness which The Father God, provides, shall spend Eternity with His Son. But all those who refuse to respond and to wear the provided wedding garment shall face Fatal Wrath by being cast into the outer dark and shall suffer in anguish forever with weeping and gnashing of teeth in The Lake of Fire.

3. **The Lesson on Financial Responsibility** - c. 1:00 P.M. (Mt. 22:15-22; Mk. 12:13-17; Lk. 20:20-26).

a. The Consultation for Confrontation.

After the Pharisees (Mt. 22:15), chief priests, and scribes (Lk. 20:19) were angered at Jesus because of the parables that He used to illustrate their Fatal Wrath, they took consultation together with the Herodians as to how they could entrap Jesus in His speech. Then off to the side, after watching Him intently, in the **early**

afternoon (c. 1:00 P.M.) they sent spies to Jesus. These disciples of the Pharisees with the Herodians formed a delegation that confronted Him in wickedness by hypocritically pretending to be righteous with a sincere inquiry about paying tax, so as to fulfill their intent to catch Him in a trap in His speech in order to deliver Him over to the principality and authority of the governor, **Pohntéohs** Pilate for execution by crucifixion.

- b. Jesus responded with a question followed by an example and another question, “O hypocrites, why are you testing **Me**?” [Why put **Me** to proof? (APT)]. Then He asked them, “Exhibit to Me the legal coin of the poll tax!” (Mt. 22:19 APT). When they gave Him a **δηνάριον** (daynáreeohn), a small Roman silver coin the size of a dime, equal to a day’s pay with which they must pay the poll tax, He asked the second question by which He turned their brief answer and their provision of a small silver coin into a visual aid to teach The Truth that it is equally important in the eyes of The God to render to each authority that which rightfully belongs to each.
- c. The particular reference was to the Jews’ legal obligation, firstly horizontally to pay tax to the ruling human government. Every Jew is legally obligated before The God to be financially responsible to render to every government over them the taxes assessed by each governing body. On the other hand every Jew is equally legally obligated vertically to be financially responsible to The God to see that He receives the proper proportion (the tithe, 10%) of all gross income plus other additional tithes to The Lord God as stated in The Law.
- d. The prevailing principle both to Jews and Gentiles is firstly their obligation horizontally to the ruling human government(s) over them. Every human is legally obligated before The God to be financially responsible to render to government the taxes assessed by each governing body over him or her. On the other hand every regenerated human is equally, legally obligated vertically to be financially responsible to The God to see that He, through gifts to His True Church, receives the proper proportion (the tithe, 10%) of gross income plus additional percentage(s) to The Lord God and His Beloved Son as love gifts in response to His great love for us and for all the blessings that The Godhead pours out upon us daily.

After the spies that the Pharisees and Herodians sent to trap Jesus with the ploy that they concocted and then failed miserably in their effort, they marvelled and kept silent. Then we considered another aspect of The Lord, Jesus Christ’s teachings on Wednesday, 12th Nisán (April 1), A.D. 33

4. The Lesson on Future Living (c. 1:45 P.M.) - (Mk. 12:18-27; Mt. 22:23-32; Lk. 20:27-40).

Then c. 2:00 P.M. certain of the Sadducees, who deny both the resurrection and the existence of angels, approached Him with a question that had puzzled them in their ignorance because of error in their doctrine that had been expounded by their teachers.

- a. The Sadducees’ Puzzling Question Concerned Future Living (Mk. 12:18-23; Mt. 22:23-28; Lk. 20:27-33).

Since the Pharisee and the Herodian delegates failed to trap and take hold of something He spoke to them that would incriminate Him so they could turn Him over to the Governor in order to have Him condemned to extermination by crucifixion, the Sadducees drew near and attempted another approach which backfired and silenced them.

“Therefore in the resurrection, whenever they will rise again, whose

wife of them will she be? For the[&] seven had her as a wife” (v. 23).
b. The Answer that Jesus Gave to the Sadducees (Mk. 12:24)

‘²⁴And /Jesus answered and said to them, Because of this- you[&] are being led astray, are you[&] not? Because you[&] do not perceive^[aware of] The Scriptures, neither the miraculous power of The God” (APT).

They still did not accept what Scripture stated about resurrection and this fact proved what Jesus said about their misled condition because they were being led astray. He stated their main problem. **The Sadducees had been led astray** from the doctrine handed down by Moses and the true prophets that The God had sent. Reasons why the Sadducees were being led astray from The Scriptures, which Jesus cited in His answer to their question, were noted.

Firstly, they were being led astray because they did not perceive The Scriptures. Like so many they had read The Scriptures many times and could quote them from memory, but they did not perceive the deep spiritual meaning of them. Paul had expressed the same Truth in his First Epistle to Corinthians (1 Cor. 2:15).

Secondly, they were being led astray because they kept listening to and embracing the false doctrine being taught to them. During the years false prophets had insidiously been taught false doctrine mid a content of partial truth along with a majority of Truth. Thus a number of the priests, scribes, and Rabbis had been indoctrinated with error taught by their forebears that led them from The Truth.

Thirdly, **the Sadducees did not perceive The Scriptures and the miraculous power of The God** (Mk. 12:24). They did not accept what was recorded by Job, Moses, or even by David concerning the resurrection of the physical body. And they totally ignored the teachings of The One Whom the people proclaimed as The Promised Messiah and Prophet, The Lord Christ, The One standing before them and speaking to them.

Fourthly, **the Sadducees did not perceive The Truth concerning The Self-existent, Creator-God and His eternal existence** (Mt. 22:32) **and His relationship in union to those who personally heeded His summons** (Greek translation, a stronger word than call) to do His will as did their ancestors (Abraham, **Eesah-áhk** {Isaac}, and **Yahkōb** {Jacob}) did.

Fifthly, **the Sadducees did not understand the form of human life after death**, neither the state of death, nor the state of inter-relationship and union with The God in the age to come (The Church Age) **and** in Eternity, consequently they came to a wrong conclusion about all three (Mk. 12:25-27).

c. The particular reference is to the Sadducees who had been led astray from the doctrine handed down by Moses and by the true prophets that The God had sent down through the ages. Jesus sought to correct their doctrinal errors concerning resurrection, the miraculous power of The God, The Self-existent Creator, and life after death and the form it takes.

d. The prevailing principle is that The God expects every human to live in the light of life after death and the resurrection which follows, in which every one must face The Judgment Throne of The God whether or not that one believes it and permanently commits trust to The Lord Jesus Christ. There is on the one hand The Resurrection of Absolute Life in union with The Lord Jesus Christ and on the other hand the resurrection for judging to Eternal Damnation. The tremendous cost of denying resurrection and

failing or refusing complete persistent obedience to The Lord Jesus Christ results in the resurrection for judging to Eternal Damnation of agonizing pain and suffering in The Lake of Fire according to one's works (Jn. 5:28,29 cf. 3:17,18; Rev. 20:11-13). On the other hand repentance, confession, and persistent obedience and persistent personal faith committed to The Lord Jesus Christ results in Resurrection of Absolute Life with Him forever after being judged for our works.

Satan is active today with the same ploy as of old times by using false prophets, preachers, and teachers insidiously and subtly slipping in to the churches to present and teach false doctrine concerning these Truths to lead astray believing people to their own detriment and Satan's benefit.

5. The Lesson on False Religion - 2:30 P.M. (Mt. 22:34-23:36; Mk. 12:28-40; Lk. 20:39-47).

The Lesson that The Lord Jesus taught on False Religion covers four segments: Futile Resolve (Mt. 22:34-40; Mk. 12:28-34; Lk. 20:39,40), Faulty Reflection upon Scripture (Mk. 12:35-37; Mt. 22:41-46; Lk. 20:41-44), Fallible Recognition (Mt. 23:1-12; Mk. 12:38-40; Lk. 20:45-47), and Fatal Rebuke (Mt. 23:13-36).

a. The Reproof of Futile Resolve (Mt. 22:36-40; Mk. 12:28-34).

Four times the efforts by the Jewish religious leaders failed to trap The Lord Jesus as they intended. Firstly, in the morning all the religious leaders (chief priests, scribes, and elders) questioned His authority. He rebuked them with two parables. Then secondly, the Pharisees took counsel and consulted together with the Herodians as to how they could entrap Jesus in His speech. Then thirdly, after watching Him intently off to the side, in **early afternoon (c. 1:00 P.M.)** they sent spies to Jesus, disciples of the Pharisees with the Herodians, to confront Him in wickedness. These hypocritically pretended to be righteous with a sincere inquiry, so as to fulfill their intended purpose so that they be able to deliver Him over to the principality and authority of the governor, **Pohntéohs** Pilate for execution by crucifixion. Since that failed, fourthly (c. 1:45 P.M.), the Sadducees (including chief priests) raised a question about the resurrection, the existence of which they denied, in order to trap Him and they were muzzled. But the Pharisees had not yet given up in their attempts. Now fifthly, a lawyer and scribe, one of the Pharisees, came in mid-afternoon (**c. 2:30 P.M.**) with that same resolve (fixity of purpose) to put Him to proof and challenged Him with a question that proved to be futile.

(1) The challenging question (Lk. 20:39; Mt. 22:36; Mk. 12:28).

A lawyer, who was a scribe, questioned The Lord Jesus,
 “³⁶O Teacher, which sort of commandment in The Law is^l great? . . . Which sort of commandment is ⁰first of all?” (Mt. 22:36 APT; Mk. 12:28 APT).

(2) The Lord Jesus gave this answer (Mk. 12:29-31; Mt. 22:38-40; Mk. 12:31d).

“²⁹ . . . ,⁰First of all the commandments, Continually hear, O Israel! Lord, The God of ours! He is One Lord. ³⁰And you^s shall love^[sovereignly prefer over self and others] your^s ⁰Lord, The God of of^[source] your^s whole^[full extent of] /heart and out of^[source] your^s whole^[full extent of] /soul^[natural life] and out of^[source] your^s whole^[full extent of] /thinking capacity and out of^[source] your^s whole^[full extent of] /ability^[Deut. 6:4,5]. . . Mt. 22:38⁷ This[^] commandment is first and great. ³⁹Then ⁰second is^l like it[^],^[Lev. 19:18b] You^s

shall love^[sovereignly prefer over self and others] your /neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰By means of these /two commandments The Whole Law and the prophets of-themselves-are-hanging. . . . Mk. 23:31c Another^[same kind] commandment is not greater than these~” (Mk. 12:29-31 cf. Mt. 22:40 APT).

From this quotation it was learned that there were two sorts of codes in Jewish Law: the moral code of His covenant (Deut. 4:13 cf. Ex. 20:1-17) and the love code of the heart (Deut. 6:4-6 cf. Lev. 19:18). The love code was considered to be first and greatest both by The God, but there were mixed opinions by the rabbis, teachers of The Law. But the correction of this misunderstanding was given by Jesus.

- (3) The lawyer, who was a scribe was deeply involved in the study and teaching of The Law. Mark recorded his response to the reply that Jesus gave (Mk. 12:32,33).

“³²And the scribe said to Him, Well, Teacher! You^s spoke on the basis of Truth! Because ⁰God is One⁺ and [it: he; De. 4:35c]there is not another^[of the same kind] than He. ³³And the process of loving^[sovereignly preferring over self and others] Him out of^[source] the whole^[full extent of] heart and out of^[source] the whole^[full extent of] understanding and out of^[source] the whole^[full extent of] sou^[natural life] and out of^[source] the whole^[full extent of] ability and the process of loving^[sovereignly preferring over self and others] the neighbor as himself is more than all the whole burnt offerings and the sacrifices^{[1 Sam. 15:22]”} (Mk. 12:32,33).

This lawyer knew The Old Testament Scriptures and recognized that Jesus quoted them accurately and applied them correctly. And he explained why Jesus was correct. Additionally, He was upright enough to publicly acknowledge this and in doing so he acknowledged that the scribes and Sadducees were wrong in their doctrine of Theology. Jesus recognized his sincerity and publicly acknowledged it with a remarkable statement (Mk. 12:34).

“³⁴And when /Jesus beheld him, because he answered thoughtfully, He said to him, You^s are not far away from The Kingdom of The God.” (Mk. 12:34 APT).

[It has been noted that there is a great difference between The Kingdom of The God and The Kingdom of Heaven. Mark and Luke refer only to the Kingdom of The God. However only Matthew refers to both Kingdoms, therefore it is possible to compare both Kingdoms in contrast by referring to all the references of each in Matthew’s Gospel. The Kingdom of The God is composed of only confessors of that which is absolutely true, but The Kingdom of Heaven is composed of professors which claim to be what may or may not be true. The Kingdom of Heaven contains both wheat and tares; sons of The Kingdom and sons of the Wicked One; and those who bear good fruit and those who bear rotten fruit, and is like a dragnet containing good species of fish and corrupt species; and has a treasure chest of things^[Greek neuter includes peoples] both new and old (Mt. 13:3-52). On the one hand The Kingdom of The God is the sphere of confession which requires possession of New Absolute Life and Righteousness through The New Birth produced by The Holy Spirit upon repentance and persistent commitment of trust in and persistent obedience to The Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:3-10, 17; 1 Jn. 2:29). While on the other hand The Kingdom of Heaven

(Mt. 13:3-52) is the sphere of profession of conversion (Mt. 18:3), but without possession of Eternal Absolute Life and persistent obedience.

The Kingdom of The God requires The Righteousness of The God (Mt. 6:33) to be imparted by The Holy Spirit upon regeneration and contains only the good seed, the wheat, sons of The Kingdom, and only those who bear good fruit and are of the good species of fish. Therefore only those who are confessors trusting unto Righteousness belong to The True Church, all others belong to Christendom, which proclaims only partial Truth and shall surely perish. If interested in learning more about these two Kingdoms go to our website @www.happyheralds.org or .com.]

After The Lord Jesus clarified this Truth, concerning The commandments, Mark recorded, “And no one⁺ any longer was boldly daring to question Him” (v. 34 APT) and Luke added “anything” (20:40).

Jesus had put the crowd of religious enemies to silence and proved that their resolve (fixity of purpose) to trap Him in His speech was futile, because He spoke Truth, even as the lawyer-scribe was forced to acknowledge. And just as all attempts to corrupt His Truth (The Word of The God) will surely fail, though at times it may appear that Satan, empowering the religious leaders of our day, has control and demeans The Truth. Since this is not a parable but a question of Truth accurately answered, the prevailing principle The Lord Jesus taught is obvious. We must sovereignly prefer The Godhead **FIRST** in all things and put all that concerns Him **FIRST** before all earthly desires and ambition!

Now note The Progression of Truth that The Lord Jesus Christ taught in The Temple on that Wednesday.

Firstly, He taught complete persistent obedience to The God’s Word and the failure to enter The Kingdom of The God by those who claim to be obedient to The God’s Word and put on a front that they are obedient ones, but actually are not. These The Lord Jesus Christ called religious hypocrites, all of which shall not enter the Kingdom of The God.

Secondly, then The Lord Jesus taught that The God expects His vineyard to bear fruit and render the fruits thereof in due season and be rendered to Him. He holds both the leaders and the workers accountable and will call every one individually to give account of the results in severe judgment for failure and great rewards in Eternity for fulfilling each one’s role acceptably.

Thirdly, The Lord Jesus taught that all people of all nations are invited to the marriage feast which The Father provided for His Son. Those who respond to the invitation of The Gospel, and willingly wear the wedding garment, which The Father provides, will spend Eternity with His Son. But those who refuse to wear the provided wedding garment, The Robe of Righteousness, shall face Fatal Wrath by being cast into the outer dark and shall suffer in anguish forever with weeping and gnashing of teeth in The Lake of Fire.

Fourthly, The Lord Jesus taught that in addition to those under The Old Covenant, all are financially responsible to render, to every government over them, the taxes assessed by each governing body and at the same time all are equally legally obligated to be financially responsible to The God to see that He receives the

proper proportion (the tithe, 10%) of all gross income plus other additional tithes to The Lord God as stated in The Law. This dual financial obligation also applies to those who have committed trust to The Lord Jesus Christ under The New Covenant (Testament) to be sure that His True Church that has spiritually qualified leaders (deacons) being spiritually guided in handling The God's finances is properly distributed to His bondslave ministers for the spread of The Gospel as well as the care for the poor committed disciple-saints through offerings in addition to the tithe (10%).

Fifthly, The Lord Jesus taught that The God expects every human to live in the light of life after death and the resurrection which follows and which every one must face whether or not that one believes it. There is on the one hand The Resurrection of Absolute Life in union with The Lord Jesus Christ and on the other hand the resurrection for judging to Eternal Damnation. The tremendous cost of denying resurrection and failing or refusing to persistently obey The Lord Jesus Christ and live for Him and not for self, results in the resurrection for judging to Eternal Damnation of agonizing pain and suffering in The Lake of Fire according to one's works (Jn. 5:28,29 cf. 3:17,18; Rev. 20:11-13). On the other hand repentance, confession, and persistent obedience and persistent personal faith committed to The Lord Jesus Christ results in Resurrection of Absolute Life with Him forever.

Sixthly, The Lord Jesus taught that it is absolutely necessary to sovereignly prefer The Godhead **FIRST** in all things and put all that concerns Him **FIRST** before all earthly desires and ambition!

Conclusion: Today we continued our study of the fourth day of The Last Week in The Life of The Lord Jesus Christ on Earth. In mid-afternoon (c. 2:45 P.M.), Wednesday, 12 Nisán (April 1), A.D. 33, a lawyer-scribe of the Pharisees asked Jesus a theological question, Which sort is the first and greatest Law? We learned that there are two sorts of Law codes: the moral code and the love code. Jesus untangled the problem succinctly with Truth and surprised the lawyer, who responded sincerely and truly. Jesus acknowledged that he is not far away from The Kingdom of The God. Although The Law of Love was given to the Jews, It applies to all, both Jews and Gentiles. Love is the sovereign (to an unlimited extent) preference of one over self and all others. That one must be The Godhead first, last, and always then others. But such love is impossible to display or even imitate (fake) apart from complete persistent focus upon and submission to The Lord Jesus Christ for Salvation followed by persistent submission to the control of The Holy Spirit.

Application: What will you do beginning **today** to insure that your love is completely focused upon The Godhead through The Lord Jesus Christ and that you put the Godhead first in all earthly things and in all decisions?

Dr. Fred Wittman

For next week: Read and meditate upon: Jesus' Final Day of Public Teaching (early first evening c. 3:15-4:00 P.M.): **The Reproof of Futile Resolve** (Mt. 22:41-46; Mk. 12:35-37; Lk. 20:41-44).