

THE LAST WEEK OF THE LORD JESUS ON EARTH

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

Jesus Proclaims Truth (Part 20)

Review of Lessons in The Temple on Wednesday 12th Nisán (April 1), A.D. 33

Mt. 21:23-39; Mk. 12:1-13:1; Lk. 20:1-21:4

Introduction: We have been considering the lessons which The Lord Jesus Christ taught to the multitude in The Temple on Wednesday 12th Nisán (April 1), A.D. 33 two days before His Crucifixion.

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

After Jesus entered The Temple early in early morning (c. 7:30 A.M.), while He was teaching and evangelizing the multitude, the religious leaders inquired of Him about His authority. He challenged them by answering with a question of His own about John the Baptizer. After refusing to answer His question, Jesus told parables and began teaching lessons in eight categories.

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

Firstly, this parable taught that there are two kinds of disobedience: Blatant Resistant Disobedience and Reserved Disobedience, both of which, in relation to The God, result in eternal punishment in The Lake of Fire.

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

a. Secondly, the Parable of **the Housemaster and the Fruit of his Vineyard** taught that The God holds all people accountable to render the fruits of their work of discipleship in His Vineyard and will call every one individually to give account of the results in severe judgment in eternal punishment in The **Géh-ehnnah** for failure or great rewards for obedience.

b. Thirdly, the Parable of **the Wedding Feast** (c. 11:00 A.M.) teaches that failure to respond to the invitation to The Wedding Feast and wear the provided Wedding clothing results in **Fatal Wrath** in The **Géh-ehnnah**.

3. Fourthly, the Lesson on **Financial Responsibility** (c. 1:00 P.M.) teaches The Truth that it is equally important in the eyes of The God to render to each authority over us that which rightfully belongs to each.

4. Fifthly, the Lesson on **Future Living** (c. 1:45 P.M.) teaches that The God expects every human to live in the light of life after death and the resurrection which follows in which every human must face The Judgment Throne of The God either unto Absolute Life with The Lord Jesus Christ or unto judging to Eternal Damnation.

5. The Lesson on False Religion (c. 2:30 P.M.) covered four segments:

a. Sixthly, **Futile Resolve** (c. 2:30 P.M.) was reprov'd for failure to recognize that the great and ⁰first of all commandments is to love and sovereignly prefer The God **FIRST** in all things and put all that concerns Him **FIRST** before all earthly desires and ambition!

b. Seventhly, **Faulty Rendering of Scripture** which concerned four areas of Faulty Rendering of Truth needed to be reprov'd and corrected (c. 3:15 P.M.): (1) the resurrection, (2) the impact and priority of The Law and the priority of love; (3) Theology, especially Christology; and (4) which Commandment of The Law was great.

6.c. Eighthly, He taught the Lesson on Reprov of **Fallible Recognition** (c. 4:00 P.M.) and the need to perceive and reprove and avoid the Pharisaical hypocrites in three ways in which the Pharisees used to obtain special recognition and avid attention by means of: Lives Inconsistent with their Teachings and Proclamations; seeking attention by means of Insolent Appearance with distinctive dress and outward

appearance; and by Intentness that their Status Be Honored by use of irreverent titles for themselves and others of their religious system.

7.d Ninthly through Sixteenthly, The Lesson of **Reproof by Fatal Rebuke**

(c. 4:00-6:25 P.M.) contains eight woes upon hypocrites, scribes, and Pharisees for being engaged in eight areas of damnable deeds increasing the severity and intensity of Woe that The Lord Jesus Christ pronounced upon these religious Pharisees and all religious people who are guilty of the same sins and shall receive this same condemnation to The **Géh-ehnnah** according to the severity of their works, thus degrees of punishment in The Lake of Fire.

a. Ninthly, The First Woe! Prohibitive Oppression (c. 4:00 P.M.) because of oppressing upon the people to keep them from committing trust unto Him by shutting off the way to The Kingdom of The Heavens through constant proclamation of the substitution of 'works,' instead of emphasizing 'repentance and faith,' which The God requires.

b. Tenthly, The Second Woe! Pretentious Praying (c. 4:15 P.M.).

There are two reasons for which this woe was pronounced:

(1) For Devouring that which Belonged to Widows, not just houses of the widows that the scribes and Pharisees were devouring but also their means of livelihood by being appointed as executors of a recently deceased husband's estate and being honored at Sumptuous Feasts. Thus they persisted in using their religion and religious teaching to increase their own coffers while decreasing those of the widows, thus profiting financially from their religion.

(2) For Pretentious Praying in public places, not really prayers, but nothing more than long sessions of prattle in a sanctimonious tone to themselves in public to be heard and revered. False preachers, false teachers, and false pastors that are in their profession for the money under false pretenses have their lot cast with scribes, Pharisees, and false prophets under this curse.

c. Eleventhly, The Third Woe! Persevering Proselytizing (c. 4:30 P.M.) by persistently making Pharisee Jews that follow their doctrine and practices. This helps us to understand and discern the difference between truly regenerated disciple-saints of The True Christ and not just a proselyte-disciples. Since they travel far and near to make just one proselyte-disciple and spend many hours training him in false doctrine, how much more should we put forth effort to properly disciple others with true doctrine of The Lord Jesus Christ?

d. Twelfthly, The Fourth Woe! Inconsistency in Conformity to The Scriptures in Relation to Swearing with an Oath (c. 4:45 P.M) because they sought to evade consequences in swearing and to cover up their prevaricating by making an invalid, stupid assertion of distinction as the basis for an oath. They instituted their oral precept and disregarded the proper legal responsibility to their aged parents and declared whatever their parents may be benefited by them, A consecrated gift! The God's rejection of a consecrated gift is caused by the offerer who has caused offense to a brother and then refuses to reconcile was emphasized by The Lord Jesus. This fourth Woe upon the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees was pronounced upon them for moronic thinking in seeking to evade consequences in swearing.

Here the lesson to learn is first to beware of relying on our own opinions and upon those to whom we listen to teach us instead of what Scripture teaches and to keep searching Scripture more deeply

lest we be condemned with those Pharisees, who relied on their own opinions and those of the Rabbis before them, instead of relying upon The Holy Spirit's guidance and teaching. Jesus also taught to avoid swearing in any form, at any time, on any basis in order to prevent the consequences that ensue the act of swearing which is absolutely forbidden by The God, "Positively^[unconditional negative imperative infinitive] do not swear^[pledge with an oath] at all!" (Mt. 5:34 APT).

- e. Thirteenthly, The Fifth Woe! Inconsistency in Stewardship in Relation to Tithing (c. 5:00 P.M.) especially because of how they tithed. In some areas they went beyond The Law by meticulously tithing minute matters and abandoning due consideration of heavier matters more meaningful and bringing greater judgment, namely 'The judging,' 'the mercy,' and 'The faith which is The Faith of The Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus taught to be consistent in obedience to **all** Scripture and not just the parts that fit our thinking and our culture.
- f. Fourteenthly, The Sixth Woe! Inconsistency in Ceremonial Cleansing (c. 5:15 P.M.) was taught because the Pharisees gave inconsistent, blind regard for ceremonial cleansing, while giving greater concern for the outer aspect of living in the public eye rather than the inner aspect of the body and heart. In order to be ceremonially clean they gave greater regard for oral precepts that were delivered by humans and were added to The Commandments, Statutes, and Judgments of The God rather than giving the greater regard for The God-given Commandments themselves.

Here the lesson to learn is to obey the plain teaching of Scripture and do **not** rely upon those who persistently prefer to teach what they have learned of themselves and from their false teachers rather than Scripture Truth discerned by applying all that The Lord Jesus taught in upbraiding the Pharisaical hypocrites in His lessons on this His last day of public teaching.

- g. Fifteenthly, The Seventh Woe! Inconsistency in Seemingly Righteous Living (c. 5:30 P.M.) is a far more important matter, involving a more serious condition and a more exceedingly desperate defilement than that for which He taught in the sixth Woe. This deals with another aspect of the same hypocrisy of ceremonial cleansing, which they hope will, but never can, cleanse the defiled heart. It was pronounced because the hypocritical Pharisees were living inconsistently with their pretense. They took great pains to appear righteous and lawful to humans in many ways to portray their righteousness and prove that they are abiding by The Law, yet within they were full of unrighteousness, unlawfulness, and hypocrisy. Inside they were filled to capacity with uncleanness illustrated by "abundance of decayed bones of the dead and people in open graves left scattered on the ground" because a dead bone ceremonially defiles all that comes into contact with it. They twisted The Word of The God by making It inconclusive and needing their explanation in order to properly fulfill It. To them it was insufficient or incorrect and unworkable in life in their time until The Messiah comes! It is a very serious sin to declare The Truth declared in The God's Word to be unworkable or 'doesn't work'! Therefore by saying this The Word of The God is added to or changed, thus insuring Eternity barred from The New Jerusalem forever (Rev. 22:18:19; Deut. 4:2; Eccl. 3:14).

This parable teaches that we must not change by adding anything to or omitting anything from what is found written in Scripture nor ac-

cept any change of the meaning which is taught by Scripture or else be condemned to The Lake of Fire and Brimstone Eternally.

h. Sixteenthly, The Final Pronouncement of The Eighth and Final Woe! Persecution of The Lord's Prophets (c. 5:45- 6:20 P.M.).

The Lord Jesus had been teaching all day for twelve and a half hours, eleven hours in The Temple. He began c. 5:45 P.M. to pronounce His eighth woe upon the Pharisees for persecuting the prophets. He posed seven factors to them: Undeniable Proof, Ungodly Posterity, Unanswerable Proposition, Unavoidable Predicament, Unexpected Prospect, Unmindful of The God's Purpose, and Unforeseeable Penalty.

(1) Undeniable Proof is the first of the seven factors c.5:45 (Mt. 23:29-31).

The Lord Jesus stated two facts of undeniable proof as to why these hypocrites were the murderers of the prophets and righteous ones and would be judged with the same murderers and receive the same condemnation to The **Géh-ehnnah** (v. 33).

Firstly, The Lord Jesus stated undeniable proof of why the hypocrites, scribes, and Pharisees were guilty of the murderers of the prophets and righteous ones and would be judged with the murderers and receive the same condemnation to The **Géh-ehnnah**. These Pharisees were guilty because they were the ones who fully filled up the iniquity of their fathers by anticipating committing the same sin of their fathers by assassinating another current prophet, The Prophet, The Messiah, Who was recognized as such by the crowds of Jews just three days before this (Mt. 21:11).

Secondly, by their own admission they verbally testified that they were the sons of the fathers who murdered the prophets and by their actions in adorning and white washing the graves of the prophets.

These two facts provide undeniable proof of their impending doom.

(2) Ungodly Posterity (Mt. 23:31,32).

The second reason for pronouncing the eighth woe upon the hypocritical Pharisees was that by their own admission they verbally testified that not only were they the sons of the fathers who murdered the prophets, but they also retained murder in their hearts to assassinate Him by crucifixion, which they accomplished within 42 hours. Thus they fulfilled the Scripture in The Law which states that The God visits the iniquity of the fathers unto their children in successive generations (Ex. 20:5; 34:7 cf. 1 Kings 21:29).

Then Jesus made a most interesting statement loaded with Truth to enlighten the hearts of His obedient listeners that day and those who would read it for centuries thereafter. "And you& yourselves fully fill the measure of your& fathers." Evidently The God measures out judgment according to the measure of iniquity and He has a full point of patience at the time that it is reached, He pours out His judgment in wrath. The Godhead had been very patient for a long time upon His people Israel. But at this time (in A.D. 33) when He castigated the hypocritical Pharisees and scribes, because they intended to crucify The Christ, when they do so they shall fully fill up the measure of iniquity upon the nation. However this judgment was not fully completed upon the nation until A.D. 70 when Titus destroyed The Temple and thus hindered the ability of The Jews to continue practicing The Law ceremonially in Jerusalem.

This parable teaches that The God is patient and longsuffering in

waiting the appropriate time until the full measure thereof is reached and fully fulfilled, then He will act in full retribution. Until that time there is still the opportunity to fully repent and commit trust to Him and demonstrate in one's life the fruit of repentance that He expects to receive. Otherwise there is no escape from His retribution and judgment

(3) Unanswerable Proposition (Mt. 23:33).

Then The Lord Jesus posed an unanswerable question as the third reason for pronouncing the eighth woe upon the Pharisees.

“³³O serpents, O generation of vipers, how can you & successfully flee away from the judgment to The **Géh-ehnnah**?” (Mt. 23:33 APT).

Then there was absolute silence because the only answer was already rejected in their hearts. And so it is for many people today!

(4) Unavoidable Predicament (Mt. 23:34,35).

Because these are the ones who fully filled the measure of the their fathers' iniquity, they cannot successfully escape the judgment in The **Géh-ehnnah** that their rejected Messiah, The Lord Jesus Christ Himself sends to their face by means of prophets and wise-ones and scribes (writers of Holy Spirit-directed Epistles). And as it was to this generation of Pharisees standing before The Christ and their subsequent proselyte-disciples, so it is today for all who claim to be disciples but are only proselytes, only religious yet still unrighteous and unregenerated. Since all humans are sinners (Rom. 3:23), and since The Lord Jesus Christ suffered for the sins of all humans (1 Pet. 3:18), all sinners are responsible for His crucifixion because He was crucified for all and thus are in the predicament of being sentenced to spend Eternity suffering the intense heat and darkness in The Lake of Fire and Brimstone (burning sulphur) forever. For all, who are determinedly opposed or refuse to repent and to abandon Sin and sins and commit persistent personal trust in faith to The Lord Jesus Christ, this is unavoidable.

(5) Unescapable Prospect (Mt. 23:36).

Since they themselves were fully filling the measure of the sins of their fathers, the earthly judgment to destruction of The City Jerusalem and The Temple, plunder and poverty arrived upon **their** generation in due time (by 70 A.D.) for all these things as The Lord Jesus prophesied above. But more serious is the the final judging and eternal condemnation to The Lake of Fire according to their works at The Great White Throne judgment awaiting the end of Time.

(6) Unmindful of The God's Purpose (Mt. 23:37).

There are none so blind as those who determinedly will not to see! These blind Pharisees would not listen neither would they heed to Truth and would not listen to reason like so many people today. Although The Lord Jesus attempted to persuade the Israelites to gather under His wings for protection from the impending judgment, they would not accept Him as The Messiah for Whom they have been taught to look and have been anticipating to come and yet would not recognize The One standing before them as That One, but were determinedly willing not to come. They have been blinded by Satan. They do not understand and cannot see The Light, therefore they are unmindful of The God's purpose and will not acknowledge what He spoke to be Truth, The Whole Truth, and nothing but The Truth.

(7) Unforeseeable Penalty (Mt. 23:38,39).

The final result to Israelis and professing but unregenerated and unrighteous so-called Christians is summed up in this brief statement, “Your house is abandoned to you desolate (deprived-of-inhabitants).” Instead they all shall be existing forever in the outer darkness sentenced to The Lake of Fire and Brimstone with Satan and his angels to whom they served as bondslaves (Rev. 12:9; 11-15).

Since all the above listed facts are true, the consequences of neglecting or rejecting them produce the unforeseeable future, which is not considered by most people, especially by those who are pharisaical and claim to be right, but are unrighteous, who are unwilling to consider and respond to The Truth and persistently study The God’s Word properly and persistently respond to what It says and requires.

8. Seventeenthly, **The Lesson on Faithful Stewardship** (c. 6:20-6:30 P.M.).

Just before departing from the Temple, Jesus sat down directly across from the guarded treasury with a Levite or priest most likely of the Temple Custody or guard, located in the court of the women, which was generally the meeting location for worshippers to gather. He sat in a position so that He could observe how the people were casting in their offerings of copper money for the sacrifices to be offered to The God, which was given in addition to their tithes of more than 33 percent. An impoverished widow caught His attention. He used her sacrifice of two mites to teach His disciples a lesson on Faithful Stewardship. This was a gift, not toward the salary of the priests and Levites, nor toward the upkeep of the Temple, but most likely toward the sacrifices to be offered to The God. Her sacrificial offering was not to gain attention to herself nor to her poverty nor to impress anyone, yet she impressed The Lord Jesus who was watching unnoticed.

This Lesson teaches that The Godhead is ever watching our stewardship and how we handle our lives and all that we possess. All that we do never goes unnoticed nor unrecorded in the books of works (Rev. 20:12) as The Negro spiritual says, ‘Our God is writin’ all the time! time! time!’ We all must face The Judgment Seat (Báymah) and give an account of all our works including our finances! The True God does not use gimmicks, raffles, sweepstakes, gambling games, gifts offered for donations, or sales to get the necessary funds to operate His Church and His Gospel outreach. Since so much of our lives depends on money and everything seems to hinge on money, ‘It’s all about the money!’ Therefore how we handle our finances and the portion that the God claims affects our stewardship in the other six areas of accountability for which we shall be judged. Yes, stewardship involves much more than money, our finances, but also covers the totality of life, Truth we have been taught, our time, our talents, our tasks, and our talk. But how we handle our finances will govern how we handle these other areas for which we shall give account to The God.

How does your stewardship or mine line up with the observation that Jesus made of this situation? Do you or I give above the tithe out of love for The Lord Jesus Christ and His Father? Or do you or I have difficulty bringing oneself to give even the tithe (10 %) on a regular basis.

He is waiting for you to prove Him Faithful to every child of His who would step out in faith not just for Salvation and Eternal Life but also for your every need no matter what your circumstances may be! Won’t you prove Him to be Faithful?

Conclusion:

Today, we concluded our study of the teaching of The Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple on Wednesday, 12 Nisán (April 1), A.D. 33. We reviewed the seventeen lessons that He taught during the hours he spent in The Temple that day. We have now been studying The God's Word together and especially the teaching of The Lord Jesus Christ to the multitude and His disciples on His last day of teaching in The Temple for more than six months. Now may I ask you please to help me to ascertain how well I have been able to communicate Truth to you and how you have been able to absorb, grasp, and apply that Truth to your own lives and thus be able to communicate it to others. Unless we be good disciples and endeavor to assist others to learn and apply The Truth our lives will be fruitless. And I do not want that for neither myself nor for you. So please help me to better help you. So that, as we stand together before our Blessed Lord's Báymah Judgment Seat, we shall not be ashamed.

If you prefer not to answer audibly, or if you prefer to write, please write you personal response to The Truth(s) and send them in the mail or bring them next week or read them in class.

1. What Truth(s) specifically stands out in your mind as newly learned by you in the teaching of our Lord Jesus during these past six months?

2. How has each Truth helped you to grow in your life in union with The Lord Jesus Christ?

3. What can your teacher do to make The Truth studied more understandable?

Application: What will you do beginning **today** to be absolutely certain that you will be approved by The God when we stand together before the judgment throne of The God and hear His evaluation of each of us and hear His 'well done'?

Dr. Fred Wittman

(over please)

For next week: Read and meditate upon: Jesus' Final Day of Public Teaching (First Watch of Night c. 6:30 P.M.): **The Lesson on When Prophecy Shall Be Fulfilled I** (Mt. 24:1-8; Mk. 13:1-8 Lk. 21:5-9).