

THE LAST WEEK OF THE LORD JESUS ON EARTH

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

Jesus Proclaims Truth (Part 5 Early Afternoon c. 1:00 P.M.)

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

Mt. 22:15-22; Mk. 12:13-17; Lk. 20:20-26

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. Since it was impossible to adequately expound all of the teachings by The Lord Jesus Christ during the fourth day of that week in one lesson, we postponed expounding the remainder of His Teachings on Wednesday, 12th Nisán, April 1, A.D. 33 until we covered the rest of the days through out the week and considered The Day of Resurrection. Most of His Teachings used parables to illustrate The Truth that He intended to communicate. It was noted that to properly interpret parables requires explanation and observance of specific guidelines before undertaking to accurately understand them. Therefore we shall briefly study the parables to interpret them only by obtaining the particular reference and the prevailing principle of each. Then at a later date we shall study the parables with more involved teaching. We already considered the first two sessions in which He taught the disciples 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 in the Temple from 7:30 A.M. to 11:50 A.M.

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 Lessons on Faith, Prayer, and Forgiveness.

B. His Ministry in The Temple (c. 7:30 A.M. to c. 9:00 P.M.).

When Jesus entered The Temple early in the morning, the religious leaders (chief priests, scribes, and elders) inquired of Him about His authority. Jesus challenged them by answering with a question 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.).

Hypocritical religious leaders of Israel, who claimed to be sons of The God, would not answer the question that Jesus asked in response to their question of Him. Instead He told the parable of Faithful Service illustrated by a father who told his two sons to work in his vineyard today! This parable indicated two kinds disobedience: Blatant Resistant Disobedience and Reserved Disobedience which is implied consent to do what the father ordered but failure 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 the 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 that 'The Vineyard' was recognized by the Jews as the nation of Israel, while the vineyard keepers are the religious leaders who killed the prophets and were about to take and kill The Housemaster's Son, who was speaking to them. They shall be dashed to pieces, utterly flailed, scattered like chaff, and utterly destroyed (caused to perish) by The Son when He returns to set up His Kingdom. We all shall be called into account for complete obedience to The Commands of The Lord Jesus Christ's command to go and proclaim The Gospel, make disciples, and teach them to completely fulfill His commands as well and thereby render to Him the fruits of the work of discipleship. Unless and until then, any claim to be His disciple-saints is false, misleading, and hypocritical.
- (2) The Prevailing Principle in this parable is that since The God's Vineyard whether of The Old Testament (Israel) or The New Testament (The Church) has been abundantly provided with all that is needed to produce and render the fruits of it to Him, He expects His Vineyard to bear fruit and be rendered to Him. And He holds the leaders (O.T.: Priests, Scribes, Rabbis, and elders; N.T. Pastors, Teachers, Evangelists, Missionaries, elders, and deacons accountable and as well, He holds **all** disciple-workers accountable. There are severe consequences for true **or** false leaders and for His children who are not productive and do not render the fruits that He expects them to produce and render to Him.

- 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 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. They also prophesied as to how to recognize Him. All of those qualifications were demonstrated as fulfilled by The Lord Jesus Christ, Who stood before them and Who was teaching them presently. This final warning was being given to them two days before these same leaders cried out for and successfully obtained His crucifixion by the Romans.
- (2) The prevailing principle in this parable 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 shall 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. Those who respond to the invitation, The Gospel, and willingly wear the wedding garment, the Robe of Righteousness which The Father provides, shall spend Eternity with His Son. But 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 departing (c. 11:50 A.M.), the Pharisees (Mt. 22:15), chief priests, and scribes (Lk. 20:19) 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 **early afternoon (c. 1:00 P.M.)** they sent spies, delegates of the disciples of the Pharisees with the Herodians, to Jesus to confront Him in wickedness. These delegates hypocritically pretended to be righteous with a sincere inquiry, 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 (Mt. 22:16; Mk. 12:13; Lk. 20:20 cf. Mt. 27:2).

b. The Details of the Confrontation.

(1) In the pretence of inquiry, they approached Jesus on the basis of seeking Truth, as from ‘one with no consideration of the appearance of humans.’ They came with a question of the legality of paying (they called it giving as if they had a choice in the matter) poll tax (the tax paid to the Roman government for which every resident in the empire registry must pay). “Is it lawful to give poll tax or not?” This tax is the result of the census taken periodically.

Remember the Pharisees were the religious leaders and strict adherents to The Law and to the maintenance of their religion through tithes and offerings and opposed to heavy taxation which affected their personal budget as well as their operational budget for The Temple including the sustenance for the priests and Levites. While the Herodians were the political leaders who served Rome and depended upon the Poll tax for their income. What strange bedfellows are united by a common enemy! How conniving and treacherous (to The Truth) these religious hypocrites were!

Therefore if The Lord Jesus Christ answered negatively, He would be guilty of treason and charged with an attempt to stir up rebellion against paying poll tax to The Roman government and in this way rile the Herodians. Or if Jesus answered positively He would rile the Pharisees and delight the Herodians. What a clever ploy these two sectarian enemies concocted to trap The Lord Jesus Christ! So these spies posed the question to Jesus.

(2) Jesus responded with a question followed by an example and another question.

(A) The question: “O hypocrites, why are you testing **Me**?”
[Why put **Me** to proof?] (Mt. 22:18 APT).

Had they forgotten Who He **is** and proved Himself **to be**? Did they need to prove Him again and reveal their rejection of The One Who demonstrated Himself to be The Prophet and Messiah, Whom the people and even their children proclaimed **to be**, just three days before? How foolish of them to test Jehovah, The Son of The God, Whom they claimed to worship and serve! How foolish to reveal their stupidity!

(B) He asked them to produce a simple specific example, a **δηνάριον** (daynáhreeohn) translated ‘penny’ (AV).

“Exhibit to Me the legal coin of the poll tax!” (Mt. 22:19).

(C) When they gave Him a **δηνάριον** (daynáhreeohn), 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 this second question: “Whose image and inscription is this?” (Mt. 22:20).

(D) Their brief answer was, “**Kaisahr**’s!”

(3) Notice the application that Jesus then made (Lk. 20:21).

“Therefore, . . . surely now render [give back] the things belonging to **Kaisahr** to **Kaisahr** and the things belonging to The God to The God!” (Mt. 22:21c; Lk. 20:25b APT).

It is equally important in the eyes of The God to render to each authority that which rightfully belongs to each.

(4) The result of the confrontation (Lk. 20:26; Mt. 20:22).

The spies sent from the Pharisees and Herodians failed in their effort, i.e. they prevailed not to take hold upon His declarations so as to be able to deliver Him over to Pilate, the governor for execution by crucifixion as they wanted. On the contrary they marvelled at His answer and kept silent. Then they abandoned Him and departed from Him.

c. This Lesson has a twofold thrust: a particular reference and a prevailing principle, just as we have seen in the other parables which Jesus told on this final day of teaching.

(A) The particular reference was to the Jews’ obligation, firstly horizontally to the ruling human government. Every Jew is legally obligated before The God to be financially responsible to every government over them to render the taxes assessed by each governing body. On the other hand every Jew is equally legally obligated to be financially responsible to The God and His beloved Son to see that He receives the proper proportion (the tithe, 10%) of all gross income plus other additional percentages to The Lord God as stated in The Law. The Lord Jesus said nothing more, in His response to the spies sent by the Pharisees and Herodians, than that it is a legal financial responsibility to render what is due to each authority. The actual consequences for those Jews who failed to respond completely, positively, and persistently to this responsibility are found elsewhere in Scripture (Lev. 27:30-32; Deut. 12:6,11,17; Mal. 3:8-10; Mt. 23:23; Acts 5:36,37 cf. Flavius Josephus: Antiquities, pp. 376,377,418; Wars, p. 476, TNIC, Acts, F. F. Bruce, p. 122).

(B) 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 the governing body (bodies) over them. On the other hand every regenerated human is equally legally obligated to be

financially responsible to The God to see that He through 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 all the blessings that They pour out upon us. The Lord Jesus gave no other indication than that it is a legal financial responsibility to render what is due to each authority. He said nothing about the consequences of failing to render what is due to each. That is reserved for Him to mete out to each individual the consequences of one's own failure to comply with this principle.

However, other Scripture indicates that every human shall stand in Judgment before The God and His Son in the Future Judgment Day, when every human's work, including his or her personal stewardship management over all the possessions (financial **and** material) that The God has enabled us to gain or be given, shall be tried and the consequences meted out accordingly in a future Judgment Day first for the regenerated disciple saints immediately after the coming back in the air of The Lord Jesus Christ for His Church and finally at the end of time for the perishing ones (Rom. 13:7; Jn. 5:27-30; 1 Cor. 5:10,11; Heb. 9:27; 1 Pet. 4:17,18; Rev. 20:12,13).

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

Then 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 shall 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, 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, The Gospel, and willingly wear the wedding garment, which The Father, provides, shall spend Eternity with His Son. But those who refuse 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.

Conclusion: Today we continued our study of the third day of The Last Week in The Life of The Lord Jesus Christ on Earth. In the early afternoon (c. 1:00 P.M.), Wednesday, 12 Nisán (April 1), A.D. 33. A delegation of spies composed of disciples of the Pharisees and Herodians approached The Lord Jesus Christ with the ploy and the commission to entrap Him in His speech so that they could deliver Him over to **Pohntéeohs** Pilate, the Governor for execution by crucifixion.

It was learned that The Lord Jesus very wisely perceived their wickedness and wisely answered their trick question with another question of His own, and a request that produced an example. When they gave Him a **δηνάριον** (daynáhreeohn), a silver Roman coin equal to a

day's pay with which they must pay the poll tax, He asked them whose image and inscription was on the coin. When they answered briefly, He told them, 'Surely now render [give back] the things belonging to **Kaisahr** to **Kaisahr** and the things belonging to The God to The God!' When they saw that they failed in their effort, they marvelled at His answer and kept silent. Then they abandoned Him and departed from Him.

We learned that each Lesson has a twofold thrust: a particular reference and a prevailing principle.

(A) The Particular Reference was to the Jews' obligation, firstly horizontally to the ruling human government over them. Every Jew is legally obligated before The God to be responsible financially to render to the government over them, the taxes assessed by the governing body. On the other hand every Jew was also equally legally obligated to be responsible financially 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.

(B) The prevailing principle to Jews and Gentiles is their obligation, firstly horizontally to the ruling human government(s) over them. Every human is legally obligated before The God to be financially responsible to render to the government(s) over them the taxes assessed by the governing body or bodies over them. On the other hand every human is also equally legally obligated to be responsible financially to The God to see that He 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 all the blessings that They pour out upon us.

It was pointed out that other Scripture indicates that every human shall stand in Judgment before The God and His Son in the Future Judgment Day, when every human's work, including his or her personal stewardship management over all the possessions (financial **and** material) that The God has enabled us to gain or be given, shall be tried and the consequences meted out accordingly in a future Judgment Day.

Application:

What will you and I do beginning **today** to insure that there shall be no consequences for failing to respond to your financial obligation both to the government of the locality where you reside **and** to The God and His Beloved Son, The Lord Jesus Christ, as well as your personal stewardship management over all the possessions (financial **and** material) that The God has enabled you and me to gain or be given in response to Their great love for us and all the blessings that They pour out upon us both now and in Eternity? And how will you and I insure that we personally have amply demonstrated your or my love in such response over and above in additional percentages to Him through His True Church?

Dr. Fred Wittman

For next week: Read and meditate upon: Jesus' Final Day of Public Teaching: Jesus Proclaims Truth: Future Living (Mt. 22:23-34a; Mk. 12:18-27; Lk. 20:27-38).