

THE LAST WEEK OF THE LORD JESUS ON EARTH

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

Jesus Proclaims Truth (Part 8 First Evening c. 3:00 P.M.)

Wed., 12th Nisán (April 1), A.D. 33 : Faulty Reflection upon Scripture

Mt. 22:41-46; Mk. 12:35-37; Lk. 20:41-44

Introduction: We have been considering the lessons which The Lord Jesus Christ taught along the way to and in The Temple on Wednesday two days before His Crucifixion

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.).

After Jesus entered The Temple early in the morning and began teaching and evangelizing (Lk. 20:2), the religious leaders (chief priests, scribes, and elders) approached Him and 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 disobedience: 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.
- 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 is their relationship to The God and 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. 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.

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-King Who 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 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 who refuse to do so 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.)

a. The Consultation for Confrontation.

After the Pharisees, chief priests, and scribes 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 with a pretended, 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. He turned their brief answer and their provision of a small silver coin at his request 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. It was the Jews' legal obligation before The God, firstly horizontally to pay tax to the ruling human government and secondly 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 Jews and Gentiles are firstly legally obligated horizontally to the ruling human government(s) over them and secondly by each governing body over him or her. Secondly every regenerated person is legally obligated vertically to be financially responsible to The God to see that He, through gifts to His True Church (which replaced Judaism), 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. Scripture indicates that this premise is valid not withstanding the objections raised by those who teach that we are not under law but under grace. Although this premise was introduced to The Jews by the Mosaic Law, it is also the means by which The True Church is financed and not by practices used by worldly organizations. Being saved by The God's

grace does not negate this legal obligation of stewardship for The God, which has been assuredly established first by The Lord Jesus and later by Paul the apostle, who indicated that we are saved by grace and not by Law, in Romans (6:14,15) and throughout The New Testament.

After the spies that the Pharisees and Herodians sent to trap Jesus failed in their mission, 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.

4. The Lesson on Future Living (c. 2:00 P.M.)

Since the Pharisee and the Herodian delegates failed to trap and take hold of something Jesus spoke to them by which they could incriminate Him to extermination by crucifixion, the Sadducees drew near and attempted another approach which backfired and silenced them. Their question was, “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). The Answer that Jesus gave to the Sadducees incriminated them because they had been led astray from the doctrine handed down by Moses and the true prophets that The God had sent. Five reasons why the Sadducees were being led astray from The Scriptures, which Jesus cited in His answer to their question, were noted.

- c. The particular reference of this lesson 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. Every human 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. We must live so as to avoid that tremendous cost and to face life after death.
- 5. The Lesson on False Religion** c. 2:45 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 Rendering of 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. 22:34-40; Mk. 12:28-34; Lk. 20:39,40).

Four times the efforts by the Jewish religious leaders failed to trap The Lord Jesus as they purposely intended so that they could deliver Him over to the principality and authority of the governor, **Pohntéeohs** Pilate for execution by crucifixion, twice in the morning between 7:30 through 11:45 A.M.; then twice more in the afternoon from c. 1:00 through c. 2:45 P.M.

Then fifthly, a lawyer and scribe, one of the Pharisees, came in mid-afternoon (c. 2:45 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, “³⁶O Teacher, which sort of commandment in The Law is great? . . . Which sort of commandment is ⁰first of all?” From the answer that The Lord Jesus gave, it was learned that there were two sorts of codes in Jewish Law: the moral code of His covenant and the love code of the heart. The love code was considered both by The God. But there were mixed opinions by the rabbis, teachers of The Law to be the first and greatest commandment. However The Lord Jesus corrected this misunderstanding,

After The Lord Jesus clarified this Truth, concerning The commandments, Mark recorded that, “And no one[†] any longer was boldly daring to question Him.” 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!

Then c. 2:45-3:00 P.M. after Jesus answered the lawyer, “while the Pharisees were gathered together, ¹Jesus questioned them, ⁴²by repeatedly saying, What do you[&] suppose concerning The Christ? Whose Son is He?” (Mt. 22:41,42).

b. The Reproof of Faulty Rendering of Scripture (Mk. 12:35-37; Mt. 22:41-46; Lk. 20:41-44).

There were four areas of Faulty Reflection of Truth which needed to be reproved and corrected; one held by the Sadducees and three held by the Pharisees, totally four areas of Faulty Reflection

- (1) Firstly, the Sadducees had been reproved concerning the resurrection, which error in doctrine indicated misconception of other Scripture Truths as well, such as: the miraculous power of the God; The Self-existent, Creator-God; His Eternal relationship to His own and the form of life after death.
- (2) Secondly, the Pharisees had been reproved concerning understanding the impact and priority of The Law, its codes, and priority of love .
- (3) Thirdly, the Pharisees retained faulty reflection upon Truth concerning Theology, especially Christology, which also needed to be reproved and corrected.
- (4) Fourthly, A lawyer-scribe raised the question that the rabbis had been unable to resolve concerning The Law. This needed to be answered correctly, Which commandment is first and great? After untangling this problem presented by the lawyer-scribe, while the Pharisees were still gathered together, c. 2:45-3:00 P.M., The Lord Jesus repeatedly questioned them concerning The Christ, The Coming Messiah.

The Lord Jesus Christ, knowing full well their thoughts and their faulty reflection on Scripture, questioned them repeatedly saying the same question (Mt. 22:41 APT). The constative 3 aorist 1 verb translated ‘questioned’ indicates repeated action in successive

events and along with the present participle of means, related to the aorist verb and translated 'saying' (also v. 41), indicates that the continuing or repeated action is taking place at the same time as the aorist verb. Therefore the duplicated emphasis by use of both verb forms calls for an understanding of repeated action of questioning. This same emphasis, only not duplicated, is found in Mark 12:35. In the light of the persistent resistance of scribes and Pharisees and their refusal to believe Jesus' claim that He is The Son of The God, The Lord Jesus was repeatedly emphasizing by means of questioning what Scripture prophecy declared Him to be (Jn. 7:31-36; 9:35; 10:36-38; 19:7; Mt. 26:63; Mk. 15:39).

Jesus asked the Pharisees, "What do you suppose concerning The Christ? Whose son is He?" (Mt. 22:41 APT). The answer He expected was readily given, David's. But this question and the one following their answer calls for proper reflection upon this Scripture Truth and reveals their ignorance of three doctrines: higher theology, Messianic Truth, and the paradox of the true natures (plural) of The Messiah, The Son of The God, both his human and spiritual or Divine natures. And even though they understood the human aspect of David's statement in Psalm 110, like many Bible-believing people today, they never pondered, nor properly reflected upon the significance of it. Let us take time to reflect upon it now and often hereafter!

(A) The Paradox of The Lordship and The Sonship of The The Lord Jesus Christ, The Messiah

Mark records how Jesus addressed the crowds on the other times when again and again and again He asked the people throughout that day, "How are scribes saying that The Christ is David's son?" Then later He went on to give the answer by saying, "In Volume of Psalms" (Lk. 20:42 APT), David himself said by means of The Holy Spirit" (Mk. 12:36 APT) and quoted Psalm 110:1. But Matthew's record of Jesus' answer to His question is more specific and indicates that The Psalm was Holy Spirit inspired.

⁴³. . . So how does David by means of ^oSpirit title Him Lord? by saying ⁴⁴The LORD said unto my /Lord, Sit on My right&, until ever I lay down Your^s enemies |to be| Your^s footstool under Your^s /feet! ⁴⁵Therefore if (and it is true) David titled Him, Lord, how [from what place [Mk. 12:37]] is He his son?" (Mt. 22:43-45 APT).

This question indicates that The Lord Jesus Christ, The Messiah has two meanings of 'Lord' and two aspects of Sonship, which the Pharisees and law-teachers did not grasp.

(a) Firstly, The Lordship of The God has two aspects of meaning in relation to humans.

We must refer to The Old Testament to understand the fine difference in the use of the title, 'Lord' when translated from Hebrew to Greek to English. The Hebrew language has two words for this title, but Greek has only one. Both words require the capital 'L.' But one (Adonai) 'Lord' refers to The God, both The Father and The Son as Lord and Supreme Master and the other (Jehovah) 'LORD,' identified by initially large and small capitals rather than lower case, refers to The Self-existing Redeeming God Who Reveals Himself. It is This

One, Jehovah 'LORD,' sitting on His throne high and lifted up (Isa. 6:1), who is recorded as telling David's Supreme Master 'Lord,' The Lord Jesus Christ to sit on His right. To this high position He was elevated upon His ascension, 40 days after resurrecting on the third day after being crucified and buried. Thus The Lord Jesus Christ is David's Lord and Supreme Master and at the same time He is truly Jehovah 'LORD,' David's Redeemer The Second, Person of The Godhead. In this way His Lordship is twofold. But in this context Jesus is Lord, Supreme Master and The Father, with whom He is told to sit on The Throne is Jehovah 'LORD.' So then The Lord Jesus Christ is both 'Lord,' The Son of The God and 'LORD,' Jehovah

(b) Secondly, The Sonship of The The Lord Jesus Christ, The Messiah contains two aspects of Sonship.

Firstly, He is The Son of The God. He was recognized as this by Satan, the demons, Jesus' disciples, Peter, and the Roman centurion and the soldiers with him at the foot of Calvary's cross (2 Sam. 7:13,14; Ps. 2:7; Isa. 9:6; Mt. 4:3,6; 8:28,29; 14:33; 16:16; 27:54; Heb. 1:5). He was always with The Father since Eternity past until His birth and He was acknowledged as Son by The Father at His resurrection. As The Son of The God, He is equal with The God and in union with The Father God. But the scribes and Pharisees would not and did not properly recognize Him so.

Secondly, He is The Son of Man (lit.: The Human), born of woman with the attributes of The Father but not of His Father's position in glory nor of His Father's wealth while He lived on Earth (Mt. 8:20; 9:6; 13:41; 16:28; 19:28 cf. Phil. 2:8). And as Son of the human, He is the son of David by genealogy (2 Sam. 7:12-14 cf. 1 Kings 9:5; Isa. 11:1,10 cf. Rev. 5:5; 22:16; Mt. 1:17). In this way The Lord Jesus Christ was David's son as well as the Divine Son of The Human and by means of His immaculate conception by The Holy Spirit, He was The Son of The God. But at the same time He was The Son of The Hu(man).

Again the question that The Lord Jesus asked the Pharisees was, "if (and it is true) David titled Him, Lord, how [from what place (Mk. 12:37 APT)] is He his son?" Not one could answer this question when He asked the people around Him (His disciples included) and neither could they later when He finished quoting Scripture (Mt. 22:46 APT). But I trust that you can answer this question now. If not, carefully review this lesson until you do understand It!

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!

Now **seventhly**, He taught that He Himself is The Lord of All and David's Lord and Son and at the same time He is The **LORD, Jehovah**, Who is The Messiah, both **LORD** and Lord.

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 mid first evening (c. 3:45 P.M.) Wednesday, 12 Nisán (April 1), A.D. 33, after Jesus answered the lawyer-scribe, while the Pharisees were still gathered together, The Christ asked the question which He was repeatedly asking throughout the last three days (Mk 12:35; Lk. 21:37). "How are scribes saying that The Christ is David's son?" This was followed by two more questions.

Then we examined and explained the two meanings of 'Lord' when translated from Hebrew to Greek to English, as well as the two aspects of Sonship. It was pointed out that The Lord Jesus Christ is David's Lord and Supreme Master and at the same time He also is Jehovah 'LORD,' David's Redeemer, The Second Person of The Godhead. In this way His Lordship is twofold. But in this context He is Lord, Supreme Master and The Father (Isa. 9:6 cf. Jn. 10:30), with whom He is told to sit on The Throne is Jehovah, 'LORD.'

Then it was pointed out that The Sonship of The The Lord Jesus Christ, The Messiah has two aspects of Sonship. Firstly, He is The Son of The God and has been recognized as this by Satan, the demons, Jesus' disciples, Peter, the Roman centurion and the soldiers with him at the foot of Calvary's cross, but not by the scribes and Pharisees. Secondly, He is The Son of Man (lit.: The Human), born of woman with the attributes of The Father but not in His position in glory nor in His wealth. And as Son of the human He is the son of David by genealogy. In this way The Lord Jesus Christ was David's son as well as the Divine Son of The Human and The Son of The God.

The scribes and Pharisees were guilty of faulty reflection upon Scripture and refused to believe The Words of Truth which Jesus spoke to the multitudes. However, a few individual Pharisees did hear and later committed personal persistent trust to Him, among them **Neekóhdaymohs** (Nicodemus) and Joseph of **Ahreemahthahéeah** (Arimathea) etc.

It is vitally necessary for each one of us to be sure he or she is properly committing trust to The Resurrected-Ascended Son of The God, The Redeeming Jehovah, **LORD** of The Old Testament Who is also The Supreme Master, Lord of The New Testament. And it is also necessary to be serving as a bonds slave to Him.

Application:

What will you do beginning **today** to insure that you will not anymore be guilty of faulty reflection on Scripture, but will carefully spend time to properly reflect upon Scripture as you read and carefully investigate Scripture with a conscious awareness that Satan is constantly corrupting Scripture Truth in whatever human minds he can seduce and mislead away from uncovering Truth? What will you do to be sure you are His bonds slave persistently pursuing Truth?

Dr. Fred Wittman

For next week: Read and meditate upon: Jesus' Final Day of Public Teaching (early first evening c. 3:50 P.M.): **The Reproof of Fallible Recognition** (Mt. 23:1-12; Mk. 12:38-40; Lk. 20:45-47).