

THE LAST WEEK OF THE LORD JESUS ON EARTH

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

Jesus Proclaims Truth (Part 16 Late First Evening c. 5:30 P.M.)

Wed., 12th Nisán (Apr. 1): Inconsistency in Seemingly Righteous Living (7)

Mt. 23:27,28

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.).

On their way to The Temple, Jesus taught His disciples 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 early morning, 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.).

This parable indicated that there are two kinds disobedience: Blatant Resistant Disobedience and Reserved Disobedience which is implied consent to do what the father ordered but failed to comply. Both kinds irelation 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. The Parable of the Housemaster and the Fruit of his Vineyard.

This parable teaches that all people shall be called into account for complete obedience to all four of The Lord Jesus Christ's Commands and thereby render to Him the fruits of their work of discipleship. But failure to render the fruits of the vineyard to The Housemaster results in **Fatal Wrath of Eternal Destruction**.

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** by being cast into outer darkness, suffering 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.).

Jesus responded to the question by the delegation of spies composed of Pharisees and Herodians with a question followed by a tax coin which He turned into a visual aid to teach 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. The Lesson on Future Living (c. 1:45 P.M.).

This lesson teaches 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. There is on the one hand The Resurrection of Absolute Life in union with The Lord Jesus Christ and for all others the resurrection for judging to Eternal Damnation. We must live so as to avoid that tremendous eternal cost and to face life after death.

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

This Lesson on False Religion covers four segments: Futile Resolve, Faulty Reflection on Scripture, Fallible Recognition, and Fatal Rebuke.

a. The Reproof of Futile Resolve (c. 2:30 P.M.).

A lawyer-scribe challenged Jesus with the question, Which sort of

commandment in The Law ^{is} great and ⁰first of all? His answer demonstrated that The God expects all to sovereignly prefer The Godhead **FIRST** in all things and put all that concerns Him **FIRST** before all earthly desires and ambition!

b. **The Reproof of Faulty Rendering of Scripture** (c. 3:15 P.M.).

Jesus dealt with four areas of Faulty Rendering of Truth which needed to be reproved and corrected: the resurrection; the impact and priority of The Law and the priority of love; Theology, especially Christology; and which Commandment of The Law was great.

In dealing with the matter if Christology, He explained the two meanings of ‘Lord’ and the two aspects of His Sonship. 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.

6. **The Lesson on Reproof of Fallible Recognition** (c. 3:45 P.M.).

Then in mid First evening (c. 3:45 P.M.), The Lord Jesus warned the crowds and His disciples against three serious categories in which the Pharisees used to obtain special recognition and avid attention: Lives Inconsistent with their Teachings, Insolent Appearance, and Intentness that their Status Be Honored. Although all these things may not be present at the same time, many of them are present in the lives of constituents and proponents of various religions of today, even in those who claim to be Christian, which things were condemned by The Lord.

7. **The Lesson of Reproof by Fatal Rebuke** (c. 4:00-6:00 P.M.).

Later Wednesday afternoon The Lord Jesus pronounced eight woes upon hypocrites, scribes, and Pharisees for being engaged in eight areas of damnable deeds, each increasing in 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. All shall receive this same condemnation to The **Géh-ehnnah** according to the severity of their works, thus degrees of punishment as deserved.. The a. The First Woe! (c. 4:00 P.M.) **Prohibitive Oppression**.

The first Woe that The Lord pronounced upon the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees before the face of His disciples was because of their prohibitive oppression upon the people to keep them from committing trust unto Him by shutting off the way to The Kingdom of The Heavens by constantly proclaiming the substitution of ‘works,’ instead of emphasizing ‘repentance and faith,’ which The God requires.

So it is today, the same condemnation awaits all who refuse to enter themselves and/or seek to bar or hold back those who attempt to enter The Kingdom by whatever Satanic means, especially false teaching particularly proclaiming the substitution of ‘good works’ in the place of repentance and faith to obtain Salvation.

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

There are two reasons for which this woe was pronounced:

(1) For Devouring that which Belonged to Widows;

The accusative plural of **οικία** (oikéeah) means ‘dwellings’ with the metonymical meaning of ‘household, goods, property, and means.’ It was not just houses of the widows that the scribes and Pharisees were devouring but also their means of livelihood as well.

Two ways that the scribes and Pharisees could be accused to be the so-called devourers of the widows was to be Appointed as Executors of a recently deceased husband’s estate and to be Honored at Sumptuous Feasts. They also persisted in using their religion to increase their own coffers while decreasing those of the widows, thus

profiting financially from their religion and their religious teaching.

(2) For Pretentious Praying.

It was also noted that what the scribes and Pharisees were praying are not 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 historic scribes, Pharisees, and false prophets under the curse and woe pronounced by The Lord Jesus Himself.

c. The Third Woe! Persevering Proselytizing c. 4:30 P.M. (Mt. 23:15).

The hypocritical scribes and Pharisees were persistently persevering in proselytizing to make Pharisee Jews that follow their doctrine and practices. This helps us to understand the difference between a truly regenerated disciple-saint of Christ and not just a proselyte-disciple.

d-g. The Fourth to Seventh **Woes** come under The Category of Inconsistency in four areas.

d. The Fourth Woe! Inconsistency in Conformity to The Scriptures in Relation to Swearing with an Oath c. 4:45 P.M. (Mt. 23:16-22).

The Lord Jesus continued to upbraid the hypocrites, scribes, and Pharisees, titling them blind guides and morons, literally meaning 'foolish- or stupid-thinkers' because they sought to evade consequences in swearing and to cover up their prevaricating with an invalid, stupid assertion of distinction as the basis for an oath. They instituted their oral precept regarding proper legal responsibility to their aged parents and declared whatever their parents may be benefited by them, A consecrated gift! Also He declared The God's rejection of a consecrated gift if the offerer has caused offense to a brother and refuses to reconcile.

e. The Fifth Woe! Inconsistency in Stewardship in Relation to Tithing c. 5:00 P.M. (Mt. 23:23,24).

The Lord Jesus pronounced this Woe upon the hypocritical Pharisees because of their inconsistency in stewardship, especially in regard to tithing. 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' to which The Lord Jesus referred is found in the context of His teaching throughout the day, 'the mercy,' and 'The faith' which is The Faith of The Lord Jesus Christ Himself, which Faith He was about to demonstrate beginning in two days. It is not just your faith nor my faith, but our faith in The Faith of The Lord Jesus Christ Who died in His Faith and resurrected in His Faith and The Faith that His Death and His Resurrection-ascension would save those who placed their faith in His faith, which Faith embraces all the great doctrines of Salvation and All Scripture.

f. The Sixth Woe! (c. 5:15 P.M.) Inconsistency in Ceremonial Cleansing (Mt. 23:25,26.)

Jesus pronounced this Woe upon the hypocritical Pharisees because of their inconsistent blind regard for ceremonial cleansing, while giving greater concern for the outer aspect of living than the inner aspect. This was evidenced by the extreme meticulous regard for washing the eating and drinking vessels and their hands that convey food and drink to the mouth. 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 which were delivered by Moses, rather than giving the

greater regard for The God-given Commandments themselves. But in reality according to The Lord Jesus Christ they abandoned The God-given Commandments.

These Pharisee-hypocrites made a fair show in the flesh openly to appear to be something they were not. But in reality they were completely the opposite to what they seemed to appear. And The Lord Jesus exposed them for what they were, blind guides pretending to know and seeking to lead blind ones to the same **Géh-ehnnah** to which they are unknowingly going because they will not obey the plain teaching of Scripture and they persistently prefer what they have learned of themselves and from their false teachers to Scripture Truth.

g. The Seventh Woe! (c. 5:30 P.M.) Inconsistency in Seemingly Righteous Living (Mt. 23:27,28).

The seventh Woe closely followed the sixth Woe in that it deals with another aspect of the same hypocrisy. This Woe concerns the inside or heart of the human which is a defiled heart. The sixth Woe concerned ceremonial cleansing which they hope will, but never can, cleanse the defiled heart. Therefore the seventh Woe is a far more important matter that involves a more serious condition and exceedingly desperate defilement.

It was pronounced upon the hypocritical Pharisees because they were living inconsistently with their pretense. They took great pains to appear righteous and lawful to humans in many ways, yet within they were full of unrighteousness, unlawfulness, and hypocrisy.

The Lord Jesus used a vivid illustration to depict their sham. He likened their hearts inside to be filled to capacity with the decayed bones of dead and buried people. They were well aware of what was written by Moses in The Law, that even coming in contact with a dead bone the human is defiled and must go through the rites of purification and apply the water of purification which required the application of ashes of the burned, sacrificed heifer placed in running water sprinkled upon all that is unclean (Num. 19:11-16-22).

Inside they were full to capacity of bones of dead ones and uncleanness and defiled though they appeared to be beautiful on the outside. In the end it will all be revealed because they twisted The Word of The God by making It inconclusive and needing their added explanation in order to properly fulfill It. To them It was insufficient or incorrect and unworkable in life in their time! Thus The Day of Judging will reveal their true standing as they are condemned to The **Géh-ehnnah** forever. It is a very serious sin to declare that The Truth declared in The God's Word is unworkable or 'doesn't work'!

However, The Lord Jesus Christ completely fulfilled The Law and The Old Covenant, then He negated The Law so that Salvation can only be entirely by faith and grace and not by works of law (2 Cor. 3:13,14; Rom. 10:4; Eph. 2:15).

Thus The Law is being negated and replaced with The New Testament. Thus for everyone committing trust in The Lord Jesus Christ and confessing Him the ceremonial observance of The Law is ended (Rom. 10:4,9,10).

“⁴For Christ ^{is} ^{the} ^{end} ^{of} ^{the} ^{Law} for righteousness to everyone who^[article as pronoun] persistently commits trust. . . . ⁹If (and it may be) you^s confess Jesus with your^s mouth, ⁰Lord, and you^s commit trust in your^s /heart that The God raised Him up out of dead ones,

you^s shall be saved. ¹⁰For with ⁰heart He is continually being trusted unto righteousness and with ⁰mouth He^[Mt. 10:31,32] is repeatedly being confessed in regard to Salvation” (Rom. 10:4,9,10 APT).

Additionally, the middle wall of partition separating Jews from Gentiles is brought to ruins thus enabling The Lord Jesus to unite in Peace and in union with The Godhead into one new kind of human, The True Church, which is His Body (Eph.2:14,15 APT).

“¹⁴For He Himself is continually our /Peace, Who made the[&] both[&] one, even after the bringing to [to loose]ruins the middle wall of the partition ¹⁵and in His /flesh [attendant circumstances participle] ne-gating the enmity, namely| The Law of the commandments in the sphere of [locative of sphere]dogmas[authoritative tenets of religious belief] so that: He create the two in union with Himself into one new kind of human^[generic], in result [participle of result]making peace” (Eph.2:14,15 APT).

At the same time that The Lord Jesus Christ negated The Law, He became The Mediator who replaced It with The New Covenant or Testament (Heb. 8:6,7,13;12:22,24; 1 Tim. 2:5) and this Truth has been proven always to work if indeed all conditions are faithfully and persistently met.

“⁶But even-now He-has-obtained a- more-superior public-minis-try, in-as- much-as in-fact He-is ⁰Mediator of-a Better Covenant, which [consummative perfect]stands-enacted upon better promises. ⁷For if (and it is not true) that first-one[^] were blameless^[unblamed], a-place would- not -be-sought for ⁰a-second~. ⁸For [causative participle]since-finding-fault with-them, He says,[Jer. 31:31-34] Lo, ⁰days are- coming, ⁰Lord says, and I-shall consummate ⁰New^[kind of, in nature or in quality] Covenant~ with-the house of Israel and with-the house of Judah” (Heb. 8:6-8 APT).

It was not The Law with which The God of Israel found fault, but on the contrary with His disobedient, rebellious, and sinful people, Israel. Therefore He negated The Law of commandments and replaced it with The New Covenant of Grace with only four commandments.

“¹³[Present infinitive with **ἐν τῷ**]In-the-process-of-saying, New^[kind of, in nature or quality], the first He-has-permanently-made-obsolete. Now what~[art. as pronoun] is-being-made-obsolete and age-old is| near disappearing” (Heb. 8:13 APT).

Thus The Law is not only negated, but is also being made obsolete.

“²²But on the contrary, you[&] have approached:[Hag. 2:6] Mount **See-ōn** [Zion] and ⁰City of ⁰Absolutely Living God, Celestial Jerusalem^[Hee-chrou-sahlām, Gal. 4:26] and countless thousands of angels, . . . ²⁴and ⁰Jesus, ⁰Mediator of ⁰New^[kind of, in nature or quality] Covenant, and ⁰blood of sprinkling speaking better things than that~[art. as pronoun] of **Āhbehl**^[Abel]” (Heb. 12:22,24 APT).

The Blood of Christ speaks Propitiation, Redemption, Justification, Salvation, Atonement, Forgiveness of sins, Purged Conscience, Purification (Cleansed), Peace, Hope, New Absolute Life, Sanctification, Union with The Godhead and The True Church, Sainthood, Citizenship in Heaven, access to The Throne of The God and Intercession by The Lord Jesus Christ alongside The Throne of The Father, and Intercession by The Holy Spirit abiding within.

Now through His shed-blood on Calvary’s Cross and upon His resurrection-Ascension He applied that blood upon The Mercyseat in

Heaven, when we apply it to our hearts by The Repentance and Faith and persistently walk in The Light of His Word, we are completely cleansed from all Sin and sins (1 Jn. 1:7).

“⁷But if (and it may be) we persistently walk in the sphere of The Light, as He Himself is in the sphere of The Light, we keep on having fellowship ^[in company]with one another^[same kind] and the blood of Jesus Christ The Son of His keeps on cleansing us ^[away]from all sin” (1 Jn. 1:7 APT).

Have you experienced this blessed persistent cleansing?

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.

Secondly, then The Lord Jesus taught that The God holds all people accountable to render the fruits of His Vineyard and will call every one individually to give account of the results in severe judgment for failure or great rewards for obedience.

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 every human is 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 of all gross income.

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. Every human must face judgment some at The Resurrection of Absolute Life in union with The Lord Jesus Christ or others at the resurrection for judging to Eternal Damnation.

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!

Seventhly, He taught that all are to be aware of Faulty Rendering of Scripture in four areas of: Resurrection; the impact and priority of The Law and the priority of Love; Theology, especially Christology: He Himself is The Lord of All, David’s Lord and Son, and at the same time He is The **LORD, Jehovah**, Who is The Messiah, both **LORD** and Lord; and which Commandment of The Lay was great.

Eighthly, He taught the need to perceive fallible recognition in hypocrites in three ways: by means of lives inconsistent with their teachings and proclamations; by seeking attention by means of distinctive dress and outward appearance; and by use of irreverent titles for themselves and others of their religious system.

Ninthly, He reinforced and reemphasized His pronouncement of **woe** “a lasting state of deep distress and affliction” upon those who teach false and misleading ways and substitute ‘works instead of ‘repentance and faith’ to appease the anger and impending fearful Judgment of The God and then refuse to enter themselves.

Tenthly, He further extended His pronouncement of **woe**, upon them for

their praying long prayers in public places, not from their hearts, but rather as a pretense of being religious and to gain wealth.

Eleventhly, He pronounced an even greater **woe** by upbraiding them for their persevering proselytizing to make Pharisee Jews that follow their sectarian doctrine and practices. 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?

Twelfthly, He condemned them for moronic thinking and replacing God's commandments with oral precepts of their own. We must beware of relying on our own opinions and of those to whom we listen to teach us instead of what Scripture teaches and searching Scripture more deeply lest we be condemned with those Pharisees who relied on their own opinions and those of their Rabbis before them to teach us instead of what Scripture teaches and searching Scripture more deeply lest we be condemned with those Pharisees who relied on their own opinions and those of their Rabbis before them instead of relying upon The Holy Spirit's guidance and teaching.

Thirteenthly, He condemned them for their inconsistency in stewardship in relation to tithing: for emphasizing minute matters and omitting and abandoning the weightier and more important matters of The Law: The Judgment, The Mercy, and The Faith which matters are more meaningful and bring greater judgment. Therefore these must absolutely be fulfilled. But the lesser matters must not be left undone.

Fourteenthly, He launched into a tirade censuring the hypocrite-Pharisees for their inconsistency in conformity to The Scriptures, titling them blind guides and morons because of the devious ways they used to evade fulfilling The Law. He exposed the Pharisees' inconsistent blind regard for ceremonial cleansing, calling them blind guides leading blind ones to the same **Géh-ehnnah** to which they are unknowingly going, because they will not obey the plain teaching of Scripture. They gave greater concern for the outer aspect of living than the inner aspect of the heart in order to be 'ceremonially clean' and abandoned The God-given Commandments preferring to hold fast to what they have learned of themselves and from false teachers instead of holding fast to what Scripture Truth taught.

Fifteenthly, He condemned them because they were living inconsistently with their pretense. They took great pains outwardly to appear righteous and lawful to humans in many ways, yet within they were full of unrighteousness, unlawfulness, and hypocrisy.

Conclusion:

Today, we resumed our study of the teaching of The Lord Jesus Christ during Wednesday, 12 Nisán (April 1), A.D. 33. We examined His continued teaching on eight woes upon hypocrites. The Lord Jesus had launched into a tirade, censuring the hypocrite-Pharisees for their inconsistency in conformity to The Scriptures, titling them blind guides and morons because of the devious ways they used to evade fulfilling The Law. In this lesson we noted the exposition of the seventh woe.

The seventh Woe closely resembled the sixth Woe in that it deals with another aspect of the same hypocrisy but concerned the inside or heart of the human which is a defiled heart. Ceremonial cleansing cannot cleanse the defiled heart. Therefore the seventh Woe is a far more important matter involving the exceedingly desperate defilement. It involves a more serious condition. This Woe was pronounced upon the hypocritical Pharisees because they were living inconsistently with their pretense.

They took great pains outwardly to appear righteous and lawful to humans in many ways, yet within they were full of unrighteousness, unlawfulness, and hypocrisy. The Lord Jesus used a vivid illustration to depict their sham. Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and declared it to be what it really was, hypocrisy and lawlessness in The God's sight. He likened their hearts inside to be putrid and defiled, filled to capacity with the decayed bones of dead and buried people. They twisted The Word of The God by making It inconclusive and needing their added explanation in order to properly fulfill It. To them It was insufficient or incorrect and unworkable in life in their time!

We considered how The Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled The Law, negated It, brought ceremonial sacrifice and worship and replaced it with The New Covenant that provided the means to obtain cleansing of the heart and four commands that replaced the numerous ceremonial acts with Propitiation, Redemption, Justification, Salvation, Atonement, Forgiveness of sins, Purged Conscience, Purification (Cleansed), Peace, Hope, New Absolute Life, Sanctification, Union with The Godhead and The True Church, Sainthood, Citizenship in Heaven, access to The Throne of The God and Intercession by The Lord Jesus Christ alongside The Throne of The Father, and Intercession by The Holy Spirit abiding within.

Application: What will you do beginning **today** to appropriate these Truths for yourself and seek to convey them to others by discipling them?

Dr. Fred Wittman

For next week: Read and meditate upon: Jesus' Final Day of Public Teaching (Second Evening c. 6:00 P.M.): **The Eighth Woe: h. Persecution of the Prophets** (Mt. 23:29-33).