

THE LAST WEEK OF THE LORD JESUS ON EARTH

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

Jesus Proclaims Truth (Part 17 cont. Second Evening c. 6:00 P.M.)

Wed., 12th Nisán (Apr. 1): Persecution of the Prophets (8b)

Mt. 23:29-33

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 7:20 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 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. 2:00 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. 2:45 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.

A lawyer-scribe challenged Jesus with the question, Which sort of commandment in The Law is¹ great and⁰ first 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. 3:00 P.M.).

Jesus dealt with four areas of Faulty Rendering of Truth which needed to be reproofed 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: 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 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. All 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. The First Woe! Prohibitive Oppression (c. 4:00 P.M.).

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! 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;

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. 5:10 P.M. (Mt. 23:23,24).

This Woe was pronounced because of the Pharisees 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,' 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! Inconsistency in Ceremonial Cleansing c. 5:25 P.M. (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! Inconsistency in Seemingly Righteous Living c. 5:40 P.M. (Mt. 23:27,28).

The seventh Woe closely followed the sixth Woe in that it deals with another aspect of the same hypocrisy, ceremonial cleansing which they hope will, but never can, cleanse the defiled heart. Therefore the seventh Woe is a far more important matter involving a more serious condition and an 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 and went to great lengths to portray their righteousness and prove that they are abiding by The Law, yet within they were full of unrighteousness, unlawfulness, and hypocrisy. But Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and declared it to be as it really was, hypocrisy and lawlessness in The God's sight. The Lord Jesus used a vivid illustration to depict their sham. Inside they were filled to capacity with uncleanness illustrated with "abundance of decayed bones of dead and buried people" because a dead bone ceremonially defiles all that comes into contact with it. They were well aware of what was written by Moses in The Law and the long process and the requirements for purification for one who became defiled and unclean (Num. 19:11-16-22).

Even though these hypocrites appeared to be beautiful on the outside, they had completely defiled hearts that needed cleansing. In the end it will all come out because 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! 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 The Truth declared in The God's Word to be unworkable or 'doesn't work'!

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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 to be observed only after the complete cleansing by applying The Blood of The Lord Jesus Christ, which alone 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).

Have you experienced this blessed persistent cleansing of your heart?

h. The Final Pronouncement of The Eighth and Final Woe! Persecution of The Lord's Prophets c. 6:00 P.M. (Mt. 23:29-33).

The Lord Jesus had been teaching all day for twelve and a half hours, eleven hours in The Temple. He began to pronounce His eighth woe upon the Pharisees c. 6:00 P.M. 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. However, since this portion covers more Truth that can be properly treated in one lesson we shall divide it into two parts.

- (1) Undeniable Proof is the first of these seven facts (Mt. 23:29-31).
“²⁹Woe to-you[&], O-hypocrites, scribes, and Pharisees! because [&]you-build the burial-places of-the prophets and [&]you-adorn the memorial-graves of-the righteous-ones⁺, ³⁰and [&]you-say, If (and it is not true) we-were-existing in-the days of-the fathers of-ours, we-would-not-have- been-partakers with-them in-the blood of-the prophets. ³¹So-that [&]you-testify of-yourselves that [&]you- are sons of-the ones |who| murdered the prophets.” (Mt. 23:29-31 APT).

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 The stated undeniable proof of why the hypocrites, scribes, and Pharisees were the murderers of the prophets and righteous ones and would be judged with them and receive the same condemnation to The **Géh-ehnnah** (v. 33).

According to the durative present tense which The Lord Jesus used for the both verbs in verse 29, these Pharisees were currently involved in building burial places, tombs, luxurious mausoleums, and renovating and adorning (whitewashing) memorial graves in respect for their martyred prophets and righteous men which their ancestral fathers murdered.

Since Herod the Great began to reign in 37 B.C., an era of building prevailed in Palestine throughout Judaea for half a century or more. This building era by the Romans under King Herod's jurisdiction is attested to by archaeology and history. He is responsible for building the following: The Holy Place of The Temple beginning in 19 B.C.; the great harbor at **Kaisáh-reh-eeah** (Caesarea) with its palace, amphitheater, and aqueduct; the Herodian Palaces and structures at: Masada, the Herodium Palace south of Bethlehem, the Hippodrome in

Jerusalem, etc.; and tombs in the environs of Jerusalem for Herod's family. Likewise these Pharisees were involved in building and renovating tombs of their prophets such as the tombs of **Zahkhahréeahs** (Zacharias), son of **Bahrah-khéeahs** (Barachias) (2 Chr. 24:20-22), thousands of graves in the Valley of Jehoshaphat (ISBE), and the prophets in the eastern Valley of Kidron and on the Mount of Olives.

They claimed that if they were existing in those days they would not have been partakers with the fathers in shedding the blood of the prophets, but they were lying. Jesus said that it was not true by using the second class 'contrary to fact' conditional clause. Rather the burial places were being built out of pride, pretense, hypocrisy, and to deliver themselves from guilt.

Secondly, According to The Lord Jesus these buildings were not motivated nor influenced by honor or respect for the prophets and righteous ones, nor for repentance regarding their ancestral national sins. But rather they were being built to deliver themselves from the guilt being passed on by The God stated in The Law. Four times it is recorded that the iniquity of the fathers are visited upon the children unto the third and fourth generation (Ex. 20:5; 34:7; Num. 14:18; also cf. Deut. 5:9; 23:1-3 and Ps. 109:6-10). The Pharisees' claim was a sham that The Lord Jesus exposed by berating those standing before Him and indicating that such claim of what they said was **not** true, but in fact was testifying against themselves (v. 30). In fact their present intent to kill The One speaking to them at that time was further proof of what He said. The only hope for Salvation for this generation was to commit trust to The Promised Prophet who stood before them, Whom they intended to kill and would do so in two more days.

These two facts provide undeniable proof of their impending doom.

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

“³¹So that you& testify of yourselves that you& are sons of the ones who murdered the prophets. ³²And you& yourselves fully fill the measure of your& fathers” (Mt. 23:31,32 APT).

The second reason for pronouncing the eighth woe upon the hypocritical Pharisees was that they verbally testified that they were the sons of the fathers who murdered the prophets. In less than three hours the chief priests, scribes (Pharisees), and elders took council together to decide how to kill Jesus. Shortly thereafter the chief priests bargained with Judas **Eeskahreeōtays** (Iscariōt) to deliver-over Jesus to them for thirty shekels of silver. How quickly does evil work in the hearts of men! Jesus knew their minds and their intention to do exactly as their fathers did though they claimed to be different and would not do like their fathers did. How easily deceived is the mind that will not listen to reason or to Truth!

You have heard the adage, 'like father, like son.' This applies here to the indictment of the Pharisees by The Lord Jesus. Many Scriptures relate to this (1 Kings 14:22; 15:1-3,26; 22:51,52; 2 Kings 15:8,9; 14:3; 16:2,3; 2 Chr. 2:2-4; Neh. 1:6; Ps. 106:6; 109:1-20; Isa. 43:27,28; Jer. 3:25; 14:20; Lam. 5:7; Ezek. 18:4-14; Dan. 9:16). Medical and forensic science has made great strides in understanding and proving identity of which of several immoral men is the birth father and to whom dried blood stains in deaths

belong.

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.” Back in c. 2092 A.C. or 2035 B.C. The God promised 85 year old Abram a son, who with his offspring shall be afflicted in a strange land for four hundred years. “In the fourth generation they shall come hither” and be given this land of seven nations that shall be driven out by them through The God’s enabling. The reason they had to wait was given to Abram, because “the iniquity of the Amorites is not ye full” (Gen. 15:13-16). Evidently The God measures out judgment according to the measure of iniquity and He has a full point of patience at which time He pours out His judgment in anger. It is like filling a small vessel with liquid that is full to the brim, the slightest bit more when added will cause it to spill over.

The Lord Jesus has been very patient for a long time upon His people Israel. But at this time (in 33 A.D.) when He castigated the hypocritical Pharisees and Scribes, because they intended to crucify The Christ they will fully fill up the measure of iniquity upon the nation. Judgment was not fully competed 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. However in essence The Old Testament Law was fully fulfilled by The Lord Jesus Christ Who instituted and enacted The New and Better Covenant, thus not only negating The Law (Eph. 2:15) but also consummating The New Covenant with His Blood Applied to The Mercyseat in Heaven upon His Resurrection-Ascension.

The apostle Paul in early September A.D. 51 wrote to the Thesalonians concerning the ‘fully filling up of the sins’ of the Jews in persecuting their own prophets and the apostles of The Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thes. 2:14-16).

“¹⁴For you& yourselves, O brothers, became imitators of the churches of The God in Christ Jesus, namely the ones being in /Judea[Youdaiah], because you& yourselves also suffer these things by[agency] your&[article as pronoun] own[private] fellow-tribesmen according as also ourselves by[agency] the Jews, ¹⁵who[article as pronoun] both killed The Lord Jesus and their own[private] /prophets and severely persecuted us, both not pleasing ⁰God and hostile[opposite] to all humans[generic], ¹⁶by [participle of means] forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles[nations] so that they be saved, so as to [preposition with infinitive for result]fully fill up the sins of theirs all the time. Now the anger is [culminative aorist]advanced upon them in regard to ⁰end” (1 Thes. 2:14-16 APT).

The religious, Pharisaical, and legalistic Jews were still persecuting The Lord Jesus Christ through persecuting His disciples and followers (Acts 9:5; 22:8; 26:15) when Paul wrote this in A.D. 51 and the Pharisaical Jews kept at it long after the destruction of The Temple and the city of Jerusalem (A.D. 70), when the judgment for the sins of the leaders and the people of Judaism was meted out by The God of theirs and the ceremonial Law was unable to be performed.

We shall break and resume next time at the third factor of the

Eighth and Final Woe! Persecution of The Lord's Prophets.

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 eighth Woe which included: Undeniable Proof, Ungodly Posterity, Unanswerable Proposition, Unexpected Prospect, Unavoidable Predicament, Unmindful of The God's Purpose, and Unforeseeable Penalty.

Firstly, Jesus gave undeniable proof of the Pharisees guilt because they fully filled up the iniquity of their fathers by anticipating committing the same sin of their fathers in the assassination of 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, Jesus pronounced this Woe upon the hypocritical Pharisees because they verbally testified that they were the sons of the fathers who murdered the prophets and retained murder in their hearts to assassinate Him by crucifixion, which they accomplished within 42 hours, and thus filled fully the iniquity on the nation of the Jews.

Application: What will you do beginning **today** to be persistently sure that you are cleansed from Sin and hypocrisy and persistently living as a regenerated child of The God and a disciple of The Lord Jesus Christ

Dr. Fred Wittman

For next week: Read and meditate upon: Jesus' Final Day of Public Teaching (Second Evening c. 6:15 P.M.): **The Lesson on Persecution of the Prophets** (cont.) (Mk. 12:41-44; Lk. 21:1-3).