

- I) V13-22 INTRO: But woe to you scribes and Pharisees *hypocrites* For you shut up the
the
- II) FACT: In Ch 23, Jesus began to preach His final message
 - a) In the first twelve verses, He spoke to the *multitudes* as well as His *disciples*
- III) MULTITUDES: Spoke of people who were listening to Him but were not saved
- IV) I HAVE MENTIONED: That Jesus' popularity had grown among many people
 - a) We need to remember that not every person who heard Him were committed to Him
- V) THERE WERE SOME: Who simply appreciated that He was saying what needed to be said
 - a) Others simply appreciated the way He spoke and found Him attractive
- VI) EARLY: In the history of Israel God spoke concerning these kinds of listeners
 - a) Ezek 33:31-32 So they *come* to you as people do, they *sit* before you as *My people*, and they *hear* your words, *but they do not do them*; for with *their mouth* they show much love, *but* their hearts pursue their *own* gain. Indeed you *are* to them as a very *lovely song* of one who has a *pleasant* voice and can *play well* on an instrument; for they *hear* your words, *but they do not do them*.
- VII) FACT: Great crowds came and heard God's word from someone who faithfully declared it
 - a) They took pleasure in the voice and the eloquence and beauty of the words spoken
 - 1) They enjoyed the delivery, the words chosen, and the manner in which he spoke
- VIII) V32 HIS WORDS: Were like a very *lovely (sensual) song*
 - a) This literally means that it appealed to them as a lover's song
- IX) KEY: It appealed to them on the *physical level*, but not on the *spiritual* level
- X) QUOTE: Ezekiel's voice and the music of it were appreciated, but not the *substance of the message*. They appreciated how the song (message) was presented, but they did not pay as much attention to its *content* as they did to *how* the message was given. They enjoyed the harmony of his voice, the eloquence of his speech, the clearness of words and the dynamic power of his presentation. What they *did not do*

is *obey* what was said: they were not open to the teaching and the preaching of the message and were no more moved by his speech to repent from their sins any more than had they simply spent an evening in a concert

XI) The Gospel is a lovely song indeed; It reveals the love of God, and of the love of Jesus; often the voice of a gospel minister is a pleasant voice to those who understand it, but to others it is a voice, and nothing else; they may be delighted with his performance, but not with his subject matter: for they hear the words, but they do not obey them

I) V1 THE MULTITUDES: Needed to become disciples or they would remain lost

II) AS JESUS TAUGHT: His message centered on the danger of false teachers

a) He very specifically confronted their hypocrisy and warned against them

III) IN V2-7: I referred to *five qualities* of a false teacher

a) FIRST: They possess selfish ambition

b) SECOND: They lack integrity

c) THIRD: They lack compassion

d) FOURTH: They desire attention from man

e) FIFTH: They lack humility

IV) IN V8-12: I listed five traits of a genuine teacher

a) FIRST: They do not yearn for special recognition

b) SECOND: Jesus alone is their teacher and their allegiance is totally to Him

c) THIRD: They answer to God and not only to an earthly organization or system

d) FOURTH: They are not above others, but are members of the Body of Christ

e) FIFTH: They are content to simply and humbly serve the Lord and others

V) V13 AS WE CONTINUE: Jesus now directs His comments *to the scribes and Pharisees*

VI) HERE: Jesus directly condemns the religious hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees

VII) HE HAS: Already spoken of them as being hypocrites

a) He uses the word *hypocrite* once, *hypocrisy* once, and *hypocrites* 14 times

VIII) THESE WERE: People who were only acting righteous

a) Mt 15:7-9 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with *their* lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.

IX) THE FACT IS: He saves His most scathing rebukes for the religious authority of Israel

a) From V13-29 Jesus refers to them as *hypocrites* seven times

X) QUOTE: Of all things in the world that stink in the nostrils of men, hypocrisy is the worst

XI) FACT: He now pronounces them under God's harshest judgment

XII) NOTICE: *Eight times* He pronounces woes to them

a) WOE: Oy! A passionate cry of sorrow, grief, despair, or dismay

I) HE ALSO CALLS THEM NAMES:

a) Hypocrites, Sons of Hell, Blind Guides, Fools and Blind, Whitewashed Tombs, Serpents, and a Brood of Vipers

II) QUESTION: Why did He speak in such a way to them

a) This makes Jesus look like a hater

III) SOMEONE MAY ASK: Does this not violate His own command to love others

a) This is asked by someone who does not read the bible

IV) VARIOUS TIME: In the OT God spoke in such a manner of the unfaithful shepherds

a) Ezek 34:2-6 Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds, the leaders of Israel. Give them this message from the Sovereign LORD: Destruction is certain for you shepherds who feed yourselves instead of your flocks. Shouldn't shepherds feed their sheep? You drink the milk, wear the wool, and butcher the best animals, but you let your flocks starve. You have not taken care of the weak. You have not tended the sick or bound up the broken bones. You have not gone looking for those who have wandered away and are lost. Instead, you have ruled them with force and cruelty. So my sheep have been scattered without a shepherd. They are easy prey for any wild animal. They have wandered through the mountains and hills, across the face of the earth, yet no one has gone to search for them.

b) Jer 12:10 Many shepherds will *ruin* my vineyard and *trample down* my field; they will turn my pleasant field into a desolate wasteland.

V) SOMEONE SAID:

Throughout the history of redemption, the greatest threat to God's truth and God's work has been false prophets and teachers, because they propose to speak in His name. That is why the Lord's most scathing denunciations were reserved for the false teachers of Israel, who claimed to speak and act for God *but were liars*.

VI) THESE MEN: Were truly hypocrites

a) They lived for the honor and praise of the people, but did not love them

VII) V13 NOTICE: For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men

VIII) THE FIRST WOE: You are excluding men from God's kingdom, as you yourselves also are

IX) HIS POINT: You are rejecting Jesus and influencing others to do the same

a) In doing so, you are closing the door of salvation to those who would enter in

1) True believers influence people in to the kingdom, not away from it

X) JW'S AT OUR HOME: My question Do you allow others to think and answer for you?

I) V14 THE SECOND: You devour widow's houses, and for a pretense make long prayers

II) FACT: They fatten themselves off of lonely women

a) They may have convinced widows to trust them to manage their funds and defrauded

b) They may have acted as spiritual advisors, receiving money for long prayers

III) QUOTE: They *pray for* as they *prey on* them, and enrich themselves

a) TV EVANGELIST: Your money multiplies, like watermelon seeds

IV) RESULT: They receive greater condemnation

a) Taking advantage of the most vulnerable results in greater judgment

V) V15 THIRD: You travel land and sea to win one proselyte and when he is won you make

a) **YOU HAVE:** Incredible zeal, but you are useless in the kingdom

VI) **YOU:** Aggressively evangelize, but into a worse hypocrisy than you possess yourselves

a) Instead of setting them free, you ensnare them in deeper bondage

VII) **THIS IS THE FRUIT:** Of cults

a) They tirelessly travel to share a tainted and ineffective message

VIII) **IT IS:** The gospel that sets captives free

a) Ro 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

b) 1 Co 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

IX) **V15 YOU MAKE THEM:** Twice the child of hell as yourselves

a) They are doubly damned, in that they become like the Pharisees and end up lost

X) **V16-22 WOE:** To you blind guides who say Whoever swears by the temple it is nothing

a) He refers to the practice of solemnizing oaths through the temple, the altar, and heaven

XI) **HIS POINT:** You have made the physical (money, animals) more binding than the spiritual

a) This displaced the *integrity* of the one making the vow with the *material value* of gold

XII) **OATHS:** Made to God were to be kept as a matter of faith and integrity

a) Nu 30:2 When a man makes a vow to the LORD or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said.

b) Eccl 5:4-5 When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.

I) **V23-24 FIFTH:** You pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin (common Garden herbs)

II) **POINT:** You are legalistic nit-pickers

a) You are scrupulous in your giving, but have neglected the relational aspect of faith

III) YOU GIVE: Your offerings, but do not value justice, mercy, and faith

a) You observe the ceremonial aspects of the law but ignore the heart of righteousness

IV) KEY: You make sure to give your offerings, but do not love

a) Lu 18:10-14 Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men --robbers, evildoers, adulterers --or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and *give a tenth of all I get.*' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

V) NOTICE: He isn't saying they are not to be givers

VI) V23 KEY: He says *Without leaving the others undone*

a) PROBLEM: They emphasized the outside (giving) without developing love

VII) FACT: Genuine Christianity changes the heart

VIII) V24 BLIND GUIDES: Who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel

IX) QUOTE: In those hot countries, gnats were apt to fall into wine, if it were not carefully covered; and passing the liquid through a strainer that no gnat, or part of one, might remain, grew into a proverb for exactness about small matters.

X) THE LAW: Prohibited them from swallowing such bugs

a) Lev 11:23 All other flying insects that have four legs you are to regard as unclean

1) Some would wear masks, to keep them from swallowing flying insects

XI) STILL: You swallow camels

a) You strain out the small things, but you indulge yourselves in the worst things

XII) V25-26 SIXTH: You cleanse the outside of the cup and dish but inside they are full

a) On the outside you have the appearance of moral purity, but inside you are full of filth

1) You pillage and extort because you are completely without self-control

2) My dad's Coffee cup that was filled with paper and coffee grounds

I) ONCE AGAIN: He points out that on the outside they appear righteous, but are not

a) *Inside, you are full of sin and you need a purified heart*

1) Mk 7:20-23 "What comes out of a man is what makes him `unclean.' For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. *All these evils come from inside and make a man `unclean.'*"

II) V27-28 SEVENTH: You are like whitewashed tombs

a) The tombs were Whitewashed for Passover

III) THIS: Was a word of warning for the pilgrims who were in Jerusalem

IV) POINT: False teachers spiritually contaminate any who come into contact with them

a) Nu 19:16 Anyone out in the open who touches someone who has been killed with a sword or someone who has died a natural death, or anyone who touches a human bone *or a grave*, will be unclean for seven days.

V) V29-33 EIGHTH: You build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the

a) You presume to be superior to all who have gone before you

1) The fact is: You are even more evil than they

VI) YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY DEATH

a) Because you reject me: You will be condemned to hell

1) Jn 3:16-19 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believes on him is not condemned: but he that believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

'17 MT 23:13-33 THE FRUIT OF HYPOCRISY 3/26/17

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