

## THE LAST WEEK OF THE LORD JESUS ON EARTH

### IVi. Jesus' Final Day of Public Teaching (cont.)

#### Jesus Proclaims Truth (Part 9 First Evening c. 3:50 P.M.)

Wed., 12<sup>th</sup> Nisán (April 1), A.D. 33 : The Reproof of Fallible Recognition  
(Mt. 23:1-12; Mk. 12:38-40; Lk. 20:45-47).

**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.).

Jesus entered The Temple early in the morning and began teaching and evangelizing. 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. 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 disobedience: Blatant Resistant Disobedience and Reserved Disobedience which is implied consent to do what the father ordered but failed to comply.

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. They 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**.

The Prevailing Principle in this parable is that we all shall be called into account for complete obedience to The Lord'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**.

The prevailing principle in this lesson 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.

Because they were angered at Jesus and His parables to illustrate their Fatal Wrath, the Pharisees, chief priests, and scribes consulted together with the Herodians to plan to trap Jesus in His speech. **Early afternoon (c. 1:00 P.M.)** they sent a delegation of spies to confront Jesus with a pretended, sincere inquiry about paying tax so as to secure proof to convict Him before **Pohntéeohs** Pilate for execution by crucifixion. Their question, “Is it lawful to give poll tax to **Kaísahr** (Caesar), or not?” Jesus responded with a question followed by an example and another question 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.

- b. The prevailing principle in this lesson is that is both Jews and Gentiles are: firstly legally obligated horizontally to pay tax to the ruling human government(s) over them and 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.

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 accomplish their mission, 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<sup>6</sup> 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.

The prevailing principle in this lesson 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 **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. 2:40 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, “<sup>36</sup>O Teacher, which sort of commandment in The Law is great? . . . Which sort of commandment is <sup>0</sup>first 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 the first by The God. But there were mixed opinions by the rabbis, teachers of The Law as to this being 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<sup>+</sup> 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. 2:50 P.M. after Jesus answered the lawyer, “while the Pharisees were gathered together, <sup>1</sup>Jesus questioned them, <sup>42</sup>by repeatedly saying, ‘What do you<sup>&</sup> 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 Rendering of (handing down or transmitting) Truth which needed to be reproofed and corrected; one held by the Sadducees and three held by the Pharisees, totally four areas of Faulty Reflection

- (1) Firstly, Sadducees had been reproofed concerning the resurrection.
- (2) Secondly, Pharisees had been reproofed concerning the impact and priority of The Law, its codes, and priority of love.
- (3) Thirdly, Pharisees had been reproofed and corrected concerning Theology, especially Christology.
- (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. 2:50-3:00 P.M. in first evening**, 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 asking the same question, “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 rendering of 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.

We carefully 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 who hold a false doctrine of Christology. 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 at the same time He was The Son of The God.

**6. The Lesson on Reproof of Fallible Recognition** c. 3.50 P.M. (Mt. 23:1-12; Mk. 12:38-40; Lk. 20:45-47).

After The Lord Jesus completed reproofing all the various religious sects of Judaism and answering all their various questions to trap Him in His speech, which miserably failed, while the Pharisees no longer questioned Him, the great crowd kept hearing Him gladly. Then in early First evening (c. 3:15 P.M.), The Lord Jesus warned the crowds and His disciples against seeking Fallible Recognition from fellow humans, and described the various ways the Pharisees used to obtain such fallible recognition and the consequences of such action. Among the ways, that He taught the great crowd and His disciples as recorded by Matthew, concerned their intense desire for fallible recognition and avid attention in three serious categories: Lives Inconsistent with their Teachings, Insolent Appearance, and Intentness that their Status Be Honored, (Mt. 23:1-4; Mk. 12:38-40; Lk. 20:45-47). 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.

(1) Lives Inconsistent with their Teachings (Mt. 23:1-4).

The Lord Jesus warned His disciples and the great crowd of the intense desire of the scribes and Pharisees for fallible recognition because they say, but they themselves are not doing what they teach. They taught rules and regulations which they required others to comply with and obey, yet they themselves did not fully carry out in their own lives what they taught. They placed over upon the

shoulders of, and bind heavy burdens upon humans, but will not wag or move them with a finger. In other words their lives are inconsistent with their teaching of The Law. “What ever things they tell you to do, continually do, but do not do according to their works!” Thus they are religious hypocrites! This is a good way to discern whether the prophet, preacher, or religious teacher of Scripture is true or false. Are their lives consistent with their teaching? If not, they are false!

(2) Insolent Appearance (Mt. 23:5; Mk. 12:38,39; Lk. 20:46).

A second indication of the intense desire for fallible recognition is their attempt to get public attention through their insolent appearance by disregarding the normal apparel generally worn by the majority. Instead they dressed differently and insisted upon their adherents and proselytes to wear and include eighteen garments to make up their outfit. (For further study, see *Sketches of Jewish Social Life* by Alfred Edersheim, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1987. pp. 216-224).

The motive of the scribes’ and Pharisees’ works, Jesus said, is to get people to gaze upon them with rapt attention. To get such attention, in addition to their distinctive dress, they modify, enlarge, and emphasize the special means of identification which The LORD God gave to the Israelites in The Law, using enlarged phylacteries (equivalent to amulets or charms) and fringes (greatly enlarged) to remind themselves of The God, of His Laws, and of their identification with Him throughout the part of the day that they are awake.

(A) Phylacteries were little one inch cube boxes containing the Ten Commandments and other Scripture passages neatly folded inside placed on the forehead and secured by a string-like band around the head and a larger box upon the hand. By some this was considered to be figurative in meaning, while Pharisees demanded a literal practice. This in New Testament times had been so expanded through the years that it came to mean ‘to be worn on the left arm toward the heart’ as well as on the forehead. These boxes contained four distinct parchments with four passages of the Torah especially: Ex. 13:1-10; 13:11-16; Deut. 6:4-9; 11:13-21.

(B) Fringes were first ordered by The LORD to remind The God’s people of His commandments. The Hebrew word is feminine (Num. 15:39), and the pronoun masculine. Thus it should read ‘Him’ referring to The God and not ‘it’ referring to the fringe. The Hebrew word translated ‘ribband’ means ‘a wire, a thread, a line, or lace’ of blue. This was interwoven in to the border of the garment. Through the years this was broadened to a wide strip of blue to be sure to attract attention. (For further study, see *Sketches of Jewish Social Life* by Alfred Edersheim, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1987. pp. 216-224).

In addition to their Insolent appearance and distinctive dress, The scribes and Pharisees insisted that their status be honored.

(3) Intent that their Status Be Honored (Mt. 23:6,7).

The third indication of the scribes’ and Pharisees’ intense desire for fallible recognition and avid attention is their determined intent that their status be honored. The Lord Jesus pointed out three prominent areas of pride in which their fondness is prominent:

a. fond of favored seating in order to be noticed, especially to be given the foremost reclining lounge at the dinners and the

- prominent benches in the synagogues;
- b. fond of long, involved ceremonial greetings in the marketplaces: and
  - c. fond of being titled ‘**Rahb-bée, Rahb-bée.**’ This title means ‘O great one, O great one.’ It elevates the Pharisee above others, thus adding to the fallible recognition of which they are fond and acknowledgment of **their** religious system and their status be recognized and honored.

Then The Lord Jesus denounced the scribes and Pharisees for exalting themselves and forbade others to participate in exalting them by the use of Irreverent Titles (Mt. 23:8-12). He commanded His disciples and the great crowd not to use nor to be titled by such wrong irreverent titles. If it was wrong for His disciples to accept titles that belong to The Lord Jesus Christ such as O Great One and Leader or Father or Reverend (which title is The God’s Name cf. Ps. 110:9) and any of the hundreds of (500 +) other titles given to The Lord Jesus Christ which are recorded in Scripture, it is also wrong for The God’s people, disciples and saints of today to call other humans and even The God’s servants and ministers by such titles which belong to The Persons of The Godhead alone. But this is consistently practiced today by people of all walks of life and even by those who claim to know The Lord Jesus Christ and by doing so demean and blaspheme The Name of The Godhead which He highly exalted (Ps. 8:1; 148:13; 138:2).

The seriousness with which the pre-Covenant saints recognized the fallacy of giving humans such titles is noted in The Book of Job, in the pre-Mosaic age. The words of Elihu concerning giving flattering titles to humans are recorded (Job 32:21,22, please read). Therefore we do well to take heed to this warning which The Lord Jesus Christ also gave to His disciples and to the great crowd of Jews gathered in The Temple to hear Him, that is not to use flattering titles belonging to The Persons of The Godhead to fellow human beings which dishonor The God head. But the flip side to that exhortation is to honor and magnify The Name and The Word of The Godhead (see Pamphlet titled ***Honoring and Magnifying The Name and The Word of The Godhead*** available on the web: [www.happyheralds.org](http://www.happyheralds.org) or .com).

In conclusion of His reproof of fallible recognition especially in seeking honor, The Lord Jesus stated a vital Truth (Mt. 23:12).

“<sup>12</sup>But who ever shall exalt himself, he shall be humbled. And who ever humble himself, he shall be exalted” (Mt. 23:12 APT).

Later He indicated how that humbling shall be executed: in The **Géh-ehnnah**, Eternity in The Lake of Fire being tormented forever (see v. 33).

After stating that those who exalt themselves shall be humbled, The Lord Jesus Christ pronounced seven woes upon the hypocrites, scribes, and Pharisees, which we shall begin to consider next time.

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!

**Seventhly**, He taught that all are to be aware of Faulty Rendering of Scripture especially in areas of Theology, especially Christology: 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.

And today **eighthly**, He taught the need to perceive fallible recognition in hypocrites in three ways: a. by means of lives

inconsistent with their teachings and proclamations; b. by seeking attention by means of distinctive dress and outward appearance; and c. by seeking attention positively by use of irreverent titles for themselves and others of their religious system indicating acknowledgment thereof and gaining attention negatively by use of irreverent titles for fellow humans which names belong to The Godhead alone.

**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 five attempts to trap Jesus had failed miserably, He warned the crowds and disciples of fallible recognition intently and avidly desired by the scribes and Pharisees. This was demonstrated in three serious categories which The Lord Jesus condemned:

- a. Lives Inconsistent with their Teachings of The Law: “What ever things they tell you to do, continually do, but do not do according to their works!”
  - b. Insolent Appearance: “All their works they do for the purpose to be intently gazed upon by humans.”
- and
- c. Intentness that their Status Be Recognized and Honored.

It is vitally important that every disciple-saint be alert to false teachers and proponents of false doctrine and refrain from becoming entangled in their false religion lest we also shall receive the same fatal end of more abundant judgment as that which awaits them.

**Application:**

What will you do beginning **today** to insure that you will properly discern hypocrites, false prophets or false preachers or false ministers of The Gospel or false teachers in order that the unity of The Spirit in Truth shall not be disrupted ?

Dr. Fred Wittman

**For next week: Read and meditate upon: Jesus’ Final Day of Public Teaching** (early first evening c. 4:15 P.M.): **The Reproof by Fatal Rebuke:** a. Prohibitive Oppression (Mt. 23:13; Gal. 2:15,16).