

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ** **Woe to the Pharisees, Scribes, and Lawyers**

Last time...a lesson in Light and darkness

This time...Jesus is invited to eat a meal at the house of a Pharisee...  
and Light exposes the darkness

We will again be in Luke 11

v37-38 Pharisee besought him to dine with...marveled:

Recently in this phase of His ministry, the 3<sup>rd</sup> year,  
evangelizing in the Judean wilderness and Perea,  
Jesus cast out a dumb demon (v14), as He had in the Galilee...  
with the same reaction – accused of doing so by the power of the prince of  
the devils

And what followed was Jesus speaking of

- the faulty logic of His accusers – house divided against itself will fall
- this evil generation demanding a sign from heaven
- the sign of Jonah (resurrection) is the only sign given them...  
as twice previously in the Galilee (Matt 12:39-41, Matt 16:4)  
Note: Resurrection the sign given in Jerusalem (John 2:13-19)
- a warning that the light in them was darkness  
(absence of light, false light, counterfeit light)

Now, Jesus is invited to dine with a Pharisee

The sect of the Pharisees was very bitter towards Jesus...  
and He toward them for their self-righteousness  
Eating a meal was “family style”...communion with shared dishes

Note: eat = believe (Ezk 3, John 6)

Jesus accepts the invitation, but did not “baptize” (immerse) his hands per the  
ceremonial cleansing ritual as did the Pharisee

The Pharisee was amazed that Jesus did not keep their tradition

Why did the Pharisee marvel?

Did he invite Jesus to commune with Him in order to “study” Him or to  
“hunt/trap” Him (look for a reason to condemn Jesus)?

Was he seeking truth or was he seeking a fight?

Did he not know that Jesus addressed the issue of Jewish traditions with  
the Pharisees in the Galilee?

Mark 7:1-16

v39-41 clean the outside...inward part is full:

Jesus responds to the Pharisees' objection (spoken or unspoken) by speaking to all the Pharisees...Jesus was not this Pharisees' only guest

“Now do ye Pharisees...  
ye = plural you

make clean the outside of the cup and platter...  
clean the externals visible to man

but your inward part...  
internals visible only to God, the heart and soul (Jer 17:9-10)

is full of revenging and wickedness.  
pillaging and extortion and depravity...NOT clean  
their inward parts/hearts are criminal and corrupt

Ye fools...  
Ye = plural = all ya'll  
fools = ignorant and/or unbelieving

did not He that made that which is without...  
the outside, visible, material...the universe  
The Maker is God

make that which is within also?  
God The Maker also made man's heart and soul  
He made the externals **and** the internals and sees everything He made  
John 1:1-4  
How can God be pleased with the traditions of the Pharisees that cleansed  
the (temporary) outside but not the defiled (eternal) inside?

To God, cleanliness is a matter of...the heart

Note: My question of a Muslim in the Tempe mosque at the hand  
washing place, leaving him speechless

But rather give alms of such things as ye have and behold, all things are clean  
unto you.”  
Giving is an expression of the heart  
Give with God's heart unto others as God has given to you

A manifestation of God's love is His delight in giving

John 3:16

His only Begotten as His sin sacrifice for man's sin

Eph 2:8-9

grace  
salvation  
faith

Luke 11:13

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Life and Truth

Rom 12 and 1 Cor 12-14

gifts of His Spirit

James 1:17

every good and perfect gift...nothing withheld

Rather than religious traditions that spend so much self-serving energy on trivialities (externals and temporary cleanliness), give as freely as you have received the God-serving and others-serving essentials (internals and eternal purity)

v42    woe:

Jesus corrected the Pharisees, now He rebukes them

“But woe unto you, Pharisees!...

Woe...Alarming!

Jesus is sounding the alarm to the Pharisees who are in eternal danger unless they repent

for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs...

give little things..."minors"...that grow in abundance (of little value)

and pass over judgment and the love of God...

neglect and blow off, do not give, the "majors"

- justice (God is just, the Source of justice)
- the love (agape) of God (God is love, manifested in His exceedingly abundant joy in giving)

these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.”

You have not chosen wisely

You cling to legalism and self-righteousness (externals) rather than seeking the heart of God (internals)

- Micah 6:8     He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?
- Hosea 6:6     For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.
- John 5:42     **But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.**  
(to Pharisees, about 18 months earlier in Jerusalem)

v43     1/4/18 Woe:

The alarms keep sounding...a 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm

“Woe unto you Pharisees!

for ye love (agapao, the love of God...self, in their case, is god i.e. corrupted)

- the uppermost seats in the synagogue
  - pre-eminent
  - prominent
  - “most worthy” (horizontal, external comparison)
  - highest, to feel the breeze and to glare down upon the riff raff (their view of the common folk)
- greetings in the markets
  - praise and adulation and honor of man, as they stand between man and God, rather than the approval of God (in private, internals)
  - “show business”

John 5:44     **How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that *cometh* from God only?**

v44     Woe...scribes and Pharisees:

Also in attendance besides Pharisees are some scribes  
Jesus includes them in the next (3<sup>rd</sup>) alarm

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees...

hypocrites...

actors  
liars, deceivers  
false teachers (false lights)

for ye are as graves which appear not, and the men walk over them are not aware of them.”

Num 19:16 And whosoever toucheth one that is slain with a sword in the open fields, or a dead body, or a bone of a man, or a grave, shall be unclean seven days

(death is unclean)

The Jews would white wash graves (externals) to avoid becoming unclean  
Jesus is calling the Pharisees and scribes “unmarked” graves,  
“dead men walking” defiling everyone around them  
The people believe them, honor them, follow them...completely unaware  
that they are utterly defiled (internals)

The Pharisees could fool the people, who can see only the exterior, but  
they could not fool Jesus, Who is God and can see the interior as  
well.

Later, in Jerusalem in about 6 months, Jesus will call the Pharisees and  
scribes white-washed tombs filled with dead men’s bones

v45-46 lawyers...Woe:

And not just Pharisees and scribes are at this Pharisees home, so are some of the  
real uppity lawyers...the interpreters of the Law

The scribes were the interpreters of the Law  
Jesus sounded the alarm to them in v44  
Now, Jesus includes the lawyers...”also” in v46  
The lawyers may be the highest rank of the scribe’s hierarchy  
Judaism was big into hierarchy...man lording over man  
God is big on order...built on submission and humility  
Religious hierarchies are counterfeit orders

The lawyers inform the Teacher that He has also insulted them  
They interpret Jesus’ words as declaring them guilty by association...  
the Teacher is speaking with too broad of a brush, in their minds

Jesus did not come to please man, nor did He seek to.  
He came, and sought only, to please His Father.  
So Jesus corrects the lawyers’ delusion/misinterpretation, in blistering fashion

“Woe unto you also, ye lawyers...  
Jesus sounds the alarm for the lawyers as well

for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne...

Your system of salvation by works and self-righteousness is an oppressive and hope-crushing burden.

And ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers.”

And you have no mercy, no love, and no compassion, not lifting so much as one finger to help the people you are crushing.

The Law was not given to save anyone, for the just shall live by faith

Hab 2:4

Acts 15:1-2, 7-11

The lawyers' interpretations of the Law made it even worse...  
sucking the life out of the people

v47-48 Woe...ye allow the deeds of your fathers:

Jesus has more to say to the lawyers than He does to the Pharisees and the scribes  
They are more accountable

“Woe unto you...

Another alarm, the 5<sup>th</sup>

for ye build the sepulchers of the prophets...

Your fathers killed the prophets of God

You build the sepulchers for the prophets your fathers killed

You think well of, agree with, your fathers that the prophets were to be  
killed rather than agreeing with God and thinking well of His  
Words and deeds

v49-51 prophets and apostles:

Jesus is speaking both historically and prophetically

Prophets...historically

preceded The Prophet (Deut 18:15-19), the Messiah

the greatest of whom was John the Baptist

the prophets culminate in Jesus Christ.

Apostles...prophetically

Jesus' 12 (becomes 11 and then 12 again)

The foundation of God's new work, His Body/Bride

His witnesses...preaching the Gospel, His Resurrection

His Resurrection is the sign from heaven He has been giving them

- sign of the prophet Jonah
- this Temple

the wisdom of God...required of this generation:

What is the wisdom of God?

The Word of God, the counsel of God...

the revelation of the only wise God (1 Tim 1:17)

to fallen/foolish man

Proverbs 1-8, spoken of as a Person

John 1:1

1 Cor 1:30

God in His wisdom and foreknowledge foretold the Jews He would send  
His messengers (prophets and Jesus' apostles) and that His  
unbelieving people would persecute and kill them

The Jews, to whom God sent His prophets (Repent!), would be held accountable  
for killing them; the blood of the prophets (from Abel, Gen 4:10) to  
Zacharias (unrecorded) would be demanded of them

This generation will kill Jesus...and the Apostles...as they killed the prophets  
They will be responsible for all that innocent blood.

“Verily I say unto you...

Thus saith the Lord

Jesus is the Wisdom of God delivering this woe-full message in Person

v52 Woe...taken away the key of knowledge:

“Woe unto you...

3<sup>rd</sup> alarm to the lawyers, the 6<sup>th</sup> in this confrontation

for ye have taken away the key of knowledge...

A key is used to open that which is locked/sealed, yielding access

There is no greater knowledge than knowing God

Jer 9:24

But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he  
understandeth and knoweth me, that I *am* the LORD  
which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and  
righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I  
delight, saith the LORD.

John 6:45

**It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all  
taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard,  
and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto Me.**

The God Who will be known delights in being known...

Personal relationship vs religious façade

What is the key to knowing God, to a personal relationship with Him?

Faith

The lawyers, with their soul-crushing system of salvation by works  
(vs by faith, per the prophets), have taken away the key to knowing  
God

Note: Very same “Woe” for every religion...all soul-crushing  
Roman Church, Islam, LDS, JW, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc

Ye entered not in yourselves and them that were entering in ye hindered.”  
They chose not to enter in (the kingdom of God) by faith, God’s way  
They chose to earn God’s approval by their works, man’s way (Cain)  
And from their position of teaching authority, they hindered others from  
entering into the kingdom of God, blocking the door

James 3:1

Their light was darkness and they corrupted many others with false light

v53-54 the scribes and the Pharisees began:

While Jesus was “Woe-ing” (6 times) the Pharisees, scribes, and lawyers,  
they were getting more and more upset, more and more bitter toward Him

- urge vehemently: quarrel with great intensity
- provoke Him to say other things: not recorded here but recorded in  
Matt 23 when He has the same confrontation with the Pharisees  
and scribes in Jerusalem in about 6 months
- lay in wait for Him: plotting and “hunting” how to accuse Him with  
His own words, asking Him trick questions hoping to trap Him in  
Self-incrimination

Their discourse with Jesus is no longer even veiled as civil  
They reject utterly Him and His teachings  
Whether in Jerusalem, the Galilee, the Judean wilderness, or Perea,  
the Pharisees etc are plotting on how to kill Jesus of Nazareth

What was the heart defilement Jesus is addressing with His Woes to the Pharisees, scribes, and  
lawyers?

Unbelief

Faith...believing Him...is all the Maker of man has ever wanted from man



**Gen 2:16-17**

Adam, the first man

What was required of him to be pleasing to God?

To work the garden?

To believe what God said

believe = do = obey

Faith vs knowledge

Heb 11:1, 6a

1 Cor 8:1 Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth

Faith vs works

Eph 2:8-10 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them

2 Tim 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began

Titus 3:3-7 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**Gen 4:7**

What was required of Cain to be pleasing to God?

To believe = faith = do = obey

How did he respond?

As did the Pharisees, scribes, and lawyers

**Gen 6:8-9**

Why did Noah find grace?

He believed = did = obeyed = had faith

**Gen 6:11-12**

His way...God's way

a. God's way = faith

Gen 15:6

Heb 11:6-7 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

John 3:18 He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life

John 6:28-29

John 14:6

b. God's way/faith

Faith **of** Christ

Gal 2:16, 20

**Gen 6:14**

God's Way of Salvation from judgment: Ark/Christ

What did Noah do?

Believed God, obeyed God

What is expected of us to be pleasing to God?

To believe = do = obey = faith

Faith...believing Him...is all the Maker of man has ever wanted from man

May our faith be strengthened this year (comes by testing)

May we Matt 6:33

May we seek the heart of God

May we lift our hands to the Lord in surrender!

His will be done, not ours

To receive the power of God from on high to be His witnesses in a wicked and perverse generation

May we not be in the "Christian show business", may we let our light shine!