

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Woe Unto You, Part 3

Last time...Jesus continued His harsh rebuke of the scribes and Pharisees – Woes #5-7

The Lord's displeasure with man's self-righteousness, contrasting His pleasure with Christ-righteousness

The Lord is not pleased with the religions of man

So overly concerned about minor things...a gnat (unclean) in their wine...

while so negligent with major things...gulping a camel (unclean)

So clean on the outside for all men to see while so filthy on the inside where God sees...cleanliness happens on the inside out, cannot happen outside in

So "holy" in speech but so defiled in heart and action

This time...The Woes of Jesus to the scribes and Pharisees in Matt 23 conclude

v29-33 Woe...build the tombs...garnish...say:

Woe #8

Persecution of the righteous by the unrighteous

Blessing #8: Matt 5:10-12

The holier-than-thou self-righteous religious leaders

- built the tombs (monuments) of the prophets murdered by their fathers
- garnished/decorated the graves of the righteous (Gen 15:6)
- say, "We would have never gone along with our fathers!!! We would have been righteous and pure (like we are now)!!!"

Their actions (build, garnish) and words (Not us!) are not a confession of their sin (unbelief) and are not fruit worthy of repentance

Matt 3:6-8 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.

Their actions and words are prideful – just like their unbelieving fathers – and testify against them as participants in the murders of God's prophets

Previously, on the other side of the Jordan River, Jesus said to some Pharisees

Luke 11:47-48

Woe unto you! for ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. Truly ye bear witness that ye allow (agree with, pleased with) the deeds of your fathers: for they indeed killed them, and ye build their sepulchres.

Their fathers and them are spoken of in the Parable of the Wicked Husbandmen
(Matt 21:33-41)

Their fathers (vipers) and them (generation/descendents of vipers) will both be
judged for the same unbelief

Apart from

1. confession of sin (unbelief)
2. fruit worthy of repentance (evidence, the outside of the cup that was
made clean on the inside)

serpents/generation of vipers/unbelievers

- oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to
the acknowledging of the truth; And *that* they may recover
themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by
him at his will (2 Tim 2:25-26)
- there is no escape the damnation of hell

Jesus spoke plainly of hell – a very real place

The doctrine of “No Hell” in modern Christianity is a false doctrine
from...the pit of hell, a deception from the destroyer of men’s
souls

There is only one escape from hell: Jesus Christ and His righteousness
Salvation from hell comes “in Christ” that comes by grace thru
faith/trust/belief/obedience...
the inside and the outside both made clean (v25-26)

But to not believe

- to reject Jesus’ Person and work of salvation from eternal death
- to refuse to be reconciled to God thru Jesus Christ

is to remain condemned

Now Jesus proclaims a prophesy...a foretelling of future events...
to the scribes and Pharisees
(and to His disciples who are witnesses of this confrontation)

v34 I send unto you prophets...wise men...scribes:

Jesus is telling the scribes and Pharisees that **He** will send to them witnesses of His Lordship and Deity, of His words and His works

The self-righteous religious zealots will (future) treat His witnesses as they will (future) treat Him

1. Prophets

Who are prophets?

Servants and messengers of the OTL God

Who sends prophets?

The OTL God

Who is Jesus flatly saying He is?

The OTL God

How will the scribes and the Pharisees and all doubters know if the prophets Jesus will send are true prophets or false prophets?

Deut 18:20-22

The fathers of the scribes and Pharisees failed in this –
killed the true prophets and followed the false prophets
These children of those fathers will also fail in this

The prophets Jesus will send will be treated as were the servants in the Parables of the Wicked Husbandmen and the Marriage of the King's Son (Matt 22:1-10)

Jesus is including Himself in “prophets” (Deut 18:18-19)
The son/heir in Parables of the Wicked Husbandmen
and the Marriage of the King's Son

2. Wise men

Stephen

Acts 6

Is 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD

Acts 7:51-60

3. Scribes

Saul of Tarsus...the Apostle Paul

Acts 8:1-4

Acts 5:34

Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space

Acts 22:1-16

Prophesy: The witnesses/servants of the Lord...like their Master...will be

- killed/murdered/martyred
- crucified (requiring Roman assistance, stirred up by the Jews)
- scourged
- persecuted from city to city
(chronicles the ministry of the Apostle Paul)

Persecution – the fuel of Acts 1:8

1 Thes 2:14-15
(Paul's 1st letter)

For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men

Programming note: After LMJC we will study The Ministry of the Holy Spirit...Acts thru Jude, in chronological order

Here, in the 8th and final Woe, Jesus is speaking history in advance

Jesus is prophesying to whom?

1. Scribes and Pharisees – the enemies of the Cross and the deniers of the Resurrection

- Regarding their violent rejection of God's Good News
- Warnings of subsequent and impending judgment
- Stubbornly hold onto the shadow altar and their gift
(v18-19)

2. His disciples – the preachers and teachers of the Cross and the witnesses of the Resurrection

Embracing the Altar of Substance and God's gift

Elaborated upon for them personally:

John 15:18-25 (the serpents and generation of vipers,
the scribes and Pharisees, are **of** the world)

John 16:1-3 so we are not stumbled or retreat

1 Peter 1:1, 6-11

Why did the Holy Spirit use Peter, the apostle to the
Jews, to forewarn and prepare churches
planted by Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles,
regarding the coming persecution under
Nero?

Was Paul already martyred by Nero?

Jesus will send His servants to the scribes and Pharisees who will despitely
mistreat them that...

v35-36 come upon all the righteous blood...upon this generation:

So that all the blood of God's righteous servants will be required of those to
whom they were sent by God

from Abel (Gen 4, Jude 11), the world's 1st martyr...
in 1st book of Jewish Bible

to Zacharias

- 2 Chron 24:20-22?

in last book of Jewish Bible

yet "Jehoiada" vs "Barachias"

Was Barachias the son of Jehoiada, and his son Zacharias
the grandson of Jehoiada?

Without the genealogical records of the Temple...

destroyed with the Temple in 586BC by Neb...

this is speculation vs certain

- Zech 1:1, 7?

He and Haggai were sent by God to encourage the
returnees to finish building the 2nd Temple vs
rebuking them for unbelief

About 100 years before Malachi, followed by 400 years of
silence from heaven

No martyrdom recorded in Scripture

Whichever, the point is: All the righteous blood, from the first drop to the
last drop, will be required of this unbelieving nation created by
God to be His witnesses to the nations

Says who?

I say unto you...Thus saith the LORD

Now...a heart-rending cry from the Lord

v37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem:

After harsh words to self-righteous religious zealots come passionate and longing words as Jesus reveals His heart

The Lord takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked

His desire is that they would believe and repent

The heart-broken last words of the Woes/Curses “correspond” to His last words of His Blessings...after very gentle words, a harsh warning

Matt 7:21-27

In both the Blessings and the Curses/Woes...

Rom 11:22a Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell (did not believe), severity; but toward thee (do believe), goodness

Jerusalem – the place the Lord chose to put His name (Shem, 3 valleys)

Deut 12:5-7 But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, *even* unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come: And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks: And there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee

Instead, Jerusalem became the place where His people killed His prophets who were speaking His words : Come home!

The Lord would have blessed and protected His people, had they obeyed His voice

But they wanted nothing to do with Him, rejecting His blessings and protection

- by proxy (prophets)
- directly (Jesus Christ, the Son/Heir of God, The Prophet)

v38-39 your house...you shall not see me:

Jesus again prophesies over Jerusalem and the nation of Israel

Because of their choice to not believe/obey,

- their house/home is left desolate
foretelling the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple
(by the Romans in 70AD)
Ps 108:4a thy mercy *is* great above the heavens
But is God's mercy infinite?
Immeasurable but finite
At which point only justice/judgment remains
- they shall not see Him until Ps 118:26
Near term fulfillment just days ago...The Triumphal Entry in
Matt 21:9
and
Far term fulfillment...at the end of the times of the Gentiles,
at the end of DoL
Hosea 5:15 – 6:3
Zech 12:2-3, 10

So concludes the Messiah's Farewell to the nation of Israel...which includes a promise of coming again!

Application

We live in the gap in time between Jesus' Farewell and His Return/Coming again to Jerusalem

And now, as then, v34 applies to us today

Matt 5:10-12 is for us today

Jesus' words in John 15 and John 16 to His disciples/followers apply to us today

1 Peter is for us today, also

We are witnesses of Jesus Christ, to Jew and Gentile, in this period of time known as the "last days"

Heb 1:1-3 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high

Religion (Pharisaical Judaism) and Gov't (Roman Empire) persecuted

- John the Baptist
- Jesus Christ

Religion and Gov't will be the persecutors of the followers of Jesus Christ
(born-again, Spirit-filled, sealed by God...Biblical Christianity)

- Religion
 - Islam (1.8B people, ~25% world's population)
 - counterfeit prophet
 - antichrist book
 - "gospel" of jihad/death
(in Fountain Hills on 1/7/19 and no media coverage – why not?!)
 - "Pharisaical"/Un-Biblical Christianity
 - Roman Catholic Church (1.2B people, ~18% world's population)
 - the institution/religious system
 - false priesthood
 - false gospel (salvation by works...maybe)
 - oppressing and imprisoning its own people
 - murdered more Evangelical Christians than any other worldly entity (particularly in Latin America)
 - Anti-grace denominations (salvation by works, 2 Tim 3:5)
 - Coptic Orthodox
 - Russian Orthodox
 - Greek Orthodox
 - Un-steadfast/Falling Away/Apostate/Compromisers
 - pick-and-choose (judge) what parts of the Bible to believe
 - false gospels
 - attack "the image of God"
 - Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity:
homosexuality/bi-sexuality/transsexuality are not sin
 - Council for Christian Colleges and Universities
 - National Assoc of Evangelicals
 - Trinity Bible Presbyterian Church (Weed, CA)
regarding sign "Homosexuality is still a sin"
turned on the pastor who posted it
 - Hinduism (1B people, mostly in India where persecution is rising)
 - Buddhism (.5B people, mostly in Asia where 1 in 3 Christians are persecuted)

- Gov't
 - Communism – atheistic
 - Russia
 - China (most dangerous nation for Biblical Christians)
 - Cuba
 - Islamic
 - Iran
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Turkey
 - Syria
 - Iraq
 - Indonesia
 - Socialism – humanistic (Gov't owned vs private owned/capitalism)
 - Europe – Germany, France, Scandinavia
 - Dutch pastors holding to the Biblical definition of marriage may be prosecuted by State Law
 - Canada
 - Venezuela
 - USA – Fed (Bernie, Ocasio-Cortez, etc on far left), States (NY, CA), Cities (NYC)
 - USA
 - attacks on Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Speech are aimed at Biblical Christianity
 - attacks on the “image of God” and on Biblical Christians who stand on the Word of God
 - State and Local laws
 - Federal Laws
 - 1st openly bi-sexual Senator (from AZ!)

Religion and Gov't persecute Biblical Christianity because Biblical Christianity

- exposes their
 - lies
 - abuses
 - corruption
- threatens their
 - authority
 - power over the people

Religion and Gov't are all about control/power and money

According to Open Doors

245M Christians suffered persecution in 2018...30M more than in 2017
 73 nations are danger zones for the followers of Jesus Christ...
 every continent (except Antarctica)

“Coexist”

- In theory: ecumenicalism, which is unbiblical
We are to resist the lies and the false gospels, not get cozy with them
- In practice: does NOT exist since Religions persecute Biblical Christianity

Should we

- be surprised by persecution?
- shrink back and retreat?

Of course not!

We should be prepared

We should engage the POWs within Religion and Gov't who believe a lie unto eternal death

Matt 16:15-18 **But whom say ye that I am?** And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

2 Cor 10:3-4 though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds

Matt 5:43-48 **Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others?* do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.**

Luke 23:34 **Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do**

Rom 12:14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not...

Rom 12:19-21 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. (Love, not hate)

The Lord will allow His children to be imprisoned...
so the jailers/persecutors can hear the Gospel!

Matt 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell

Matt 10:32-34 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world

John 8:31-32 If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free

John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed

Heb 13:5b I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee

Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Fear not...retreat not...be surprised not

Engage

Be cognitively and spiritually alert to those around you who are

- hurting
- discouraged
- hopeless
- in one form or another crying out for help

Speak the words of the Living God and act for their benefit (love),
giving the glory to Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God

Speak His name for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved

Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues

This morning, the Lord Jesus Christ is giving every person an opportunity to come out of Religion and Gov't and to come into His kingdom

Will you come?

His heart is breaking until you do...v37