

The Eight Woe's (Part 3) - Matthew 23:25-36

Intro: Our text from last time; Matthew 23:15-23 laid out three woes.

- You make proselytes worse than you
- You words aren't true because you have to swear by higher things
- You tithed on things not required but ignore the more important matters of the law

TRANSITIONAL STATEMENT: Today we finish up the woe's of Jesus to the false leaders, but He also invites them to change to repent to clean the inside and then the outside will be clean. We must first know who we are in order to know Him in salvation. We always pray this and ask this and we do again today, **"Lord open their eyes to see and their ears to hear."**

Pt. 1 - Diagnosis and Solution - Vs. 25-28

Pt. 2 - Their Pride and Prevention (Vs. 29-33)

THE DIAGNOSIS, THE OUTSIDE IS CLEAN:

- Tassels and phylacteries
- Prayers in public
- Best seats in the synagogue
- Tithing above what the law required
- The inside is full of robbery and self-indulgence

THE SOLUTION, CLEAN THE INSIDE FIRST:

- He shows them who they are, you are blind, cf. Ephesians 2:1-3, Romans 3:10-18

HOW IS THE INSIDE CLEANED?

- Ephesians 2:4-5; John 3:14-15 (vs. 26 "So that") literally means "indicating a command"

IF THE INSIDE IS CLEANED, THEN THE OUTSIDE WILL BE TOO:

- He describes them as they are now, clean on the outside, but on the inside is filth and dead men's bones
- Tombs and grave markers are expensive and nice, but they house death and not life
- Only Jesus through His atoning death can make you clean - no new resolutions, positive thoughts or turning over a new leaf

HOW CAN YOU KNOW THIS?

- 1 John 2:3,19; 5:18-21

WE WOULD NOT HAVE DONE THAT; KILLED THE PROPHETS:

- Jesus condemned them for their words, cf. Acts 7:51
- In fact, you are much worse than your fathers, you are killing the Messiah, the Son of God. **NOTE:** Hypocrites condemn you for doing what they are doing.
- By their actions and words and deeds they testify against themselves. What we do reveals who we are and who we love, not what we say

HOW WILL YOU ESCAPE?

- Serpents - general term for snakes
- Vipers - specific to a venomous snake
- Brood of vipers - the offspring of vipers (Mt. 3:7)

This raises the greatest question, how will you escape the judgment of hell? Cf. Hebrews 2:3; 5:9

Pt. 3 Judgement Pronounced (Vs. 34-36)

***NOTE:** alien "a stranger settled in a town without making it a permanent residence." Thus, those who are on the earth for a time, whose real home is heaven. All these cities Paul was driven out from... Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Thessalonica, Berea, Corinth, Jerusalem, and Caesera.

Vs. 34 begins with a "therefore" - This is important because He explains what they will do!

- Prophets, wise men and scribes and you will kill them and scourge them and persecute them from city to city, cf. Acts 8:1; 1 Peter 4:1*; 1 Corinthians 11:24-29
- You are worse than your fathers

Concluding Statement: They proclaimed to know God based upon outward works, appearances and keeping of certain laws more strictly than others. Yet, they would kill those who proclaimed the truth of the coming Messiah, knowing the OT scriptures predicted and told of such. They killed, imprisoned, banished and persecuted those who believed such.

CONCLUSION POINT:

- So that “all the guilt will fall upon you” (vs. 35)
- Literally there would be additional chances to reject Him and more guilt and more judgment they would earn, cf. Romans 2:5
- They bring upon themselves the righteous outpouring of His wrath, the more they hear the truth and reject it, the more guilt and accountability they incur

APPLICATION:

- In America today there is a plethora of benefits for people to see and believe the gospel. Bibles at anytime and anyplace.
- What’s your diagnosis? The outside is clean but the inside? God offers you a solution, through Him clean the inside will be clean and whole and redeemed, resulting in the outside being truly clean
- Apart from Christ you are an enemy of God
- You hear and see and hear and see and have access to follow Christ freely, yet you reject Him. You are storing up wrath. Repent and be saved today

Ephesians 2:1-3, “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”

Romans 3:10-18, “There is none righteous, not even one; There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one. Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving, The poison of asps is under their lips; Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness; Their feet are swift to shed blood. Destruction and misery are in their paths, And the path of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Ephesians 2:4-5, “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).”

John 3:14-15, “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.” (Look and live in this account)

1 John 2:3, “By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.” **1 John 2:19**, “They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.” **1 John 5:18-21**, “We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him. We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. Little children, guard yourselves from idols.”

Acts 7:51, “You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.” **Hebrews 2:3**, “how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?” **Hebrews 5:9**, “He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation.”

Acts 8:1, “Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria.”

1 Peter 4:1, “To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.” **1 Corinthians 11:24-29**, “Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches. Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?”

Romans 2:5, “But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.”