

"The Life and Mission of Jesus Christ on Earth"

Lesson Forty-one -- Matt. 23:1-39, Mark 12:41-44, John 12:20-50

Summary of Lesson

In this lesson we continue to study the events of the third day of Jesus' final week (probably Tuesday) in Jerusalem before He was crucified. In the temple, Jesus taught His disciples and the multitude gathered around Him concerning the hypocrisy and iniquity of the scribes and Pharisees which was undoubtedly prompted by their earlier deceitful attempts at tricking Him. The scribes and Pharisees are condemned for a number of reasons. We also find Jesus sitting over by the treasury of the temple observing the various ones casting their money into the treasury, and He comments on the poor widow as she casts in her two mites, later, on the same day, some Greeks seek Jesus, and He talks of His rapidly approaching death.

Matt. 23:1-39

{1} Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples, {2} saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; {3} therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say *things* and do not do *them*. {4} "They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so *much as a finger*. {5} "But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels *of their garments*. {6} "They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues, {7} and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men. {8} "But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. {9} "Do not call *anyone* on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. {10} "Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, *that is*, Christ. {11} "But the greatest among you shall be your servant. {12} "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

{13} "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. {14} "*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense you make long prayers; therefore you will receive greater condemnation.*

{15} "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

{16} "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, *that is* nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple is obligated.' {17} "You fools and blind men! Which is more important, the gold or the temple that sanctified the gold? {18} "And, 'Whoever swears by the altar, *that is* nothing, but whoever swears by the offering on it, he is obligated.' {19} "You blind men, which is more important, the offering, or the altar that sanctifies the offering? {20} "Therefore, whoever swears by the altar, swears *both* by the altar and by everything on it. {21} "And whoever swears by the temple, swears *both* by the temple and by Him who dwells within it. {22} "And whoever swears by heaven, swears *both* by the throne of God and by Him who sits upon it.

{23} "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. {24} "You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

{25} "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery

and self-indulgence. {26} "You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.

{27} "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. {28} "So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

{29} "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, {30} and say, 'If we had been *living* in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' {31} "So you testify against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. {32} "Fill up, then, the measure of *the guilt* of your fathers. {33} "You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell? {34} "Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, {35} so that upon you may fall *the guilt* of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. {36} "Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

{37} "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. {38} "Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! {39} "For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"

Mark 12:41-44

{41} And He sat down opposite the treasury, and began observing how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums. {42} A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. {43} Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to

the treasury; {44} for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on."

John 12:20-50

{12} Now there were some Greeks among those who were going up to worship at the feast; {21} these then came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and *began to ask* him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." {22} Philip came and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip came and told Jesus. {23} And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. {24} "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. {25} "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. {26} "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him. {27} "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour? But for this purpose I came to this hour. {28} "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." {29} So the crowd of *people* who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, "An angel has spoken to Him." {30} Jesus answered and said, "This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes. {31} "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. {32} "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." {33} But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die. {34} The crowd then answered Him, "We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?" {35} So Jesus said to them, "For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. {36} "While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light."

These things Jesus spoke, and He went away and hid Himself from them. {37} But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet

they were not believing in Him. {38} *This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet which he spoke: "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF THE LORD BEEN REVEALED?"* {39} For this reason they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, {40} "HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART, SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED AND I HEAL THEM." {41} These things Isaiah said because he saw His glory, and he spoke of Him. {42} Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing *Him*, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; {43} for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.

{44} And Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but in Him who sent Me. {45} "He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me. {46} "I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness. {47} "If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. {48} "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. {49} "For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. {50} "I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."

Questions on Lesson Forty-one

1. *Why did many of the believing chief rulers refuse to confess Jesus? (two answers)*
2. *What did Jesus say in signifying by what manner of death He would die?*
3. *Who came to worship at the feast looking for Jesus?*
4. *The scribes and Pharisees had tithed the smaller things, but what things in particular had they omitted?*
5. *Why should we call no one "Father"?*
6. *On what day of Jesus' final week do the events of this lesson take place?*
7. *What are phylacteries?*
8. *Jesus said the scribes and Pharisees were full of what?*
9. *What Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled in the fact that only a few believed in Jesus?*
10. *Who gave Jesus His words to speak?*
11. *Does Jesus teach that the smaller things are unimportant? What does He say about them?*
12. *What do the scribes and Pharisees not suffer?*
13. *What is necessary if a man wants to keep his life unto life eternal?*
14. *Refusing to believe in Jesus amounted to not believing in whom else?*
15. *What is the meaning of Jesus¹ teaching concerning swearing in Matt. 23?*
16. *Why did Jesus tell the multitude and His disciples to do whatever the scribes and Pharisees commanded?*
17. *In what sense was it said that the poor widow cast more into the treasury than all the others?*
18. *What shall be our judge in the last great day?*
19. *What do blind guides do?*
20. *What did Jesus have in mind in John 12:24?*
21. *What do scribes and Pharisees make of their proselytes?*
22. *Following Jesus' talk concerning His death, what did He do?*
23. *What shall happen to the man who exalts himself?*
24. *For what motive did the scribes and Pharisees do all their works?*
25. *When a voice spoke to Jesus from heaven, what did the people think they had heard?*
26. *For what two reasons did Jesus tell His disciples that they should not be called "Rabbi"?*