

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 05 March 2017..... Matthew 14-16 Who is this Jesus?
- 2) 12 March..... Matthew 17-18 Is Jesus Fully God?
- 3) 19 March..... Matthew 19-20 What is Required?
- 4) 26 March..... Matthew 21:1-17 More Than a Prophet?
- 5) 02 April..... Matthew 21:18-46 What Happens If I Reject Jesus?
- 6) 09 April..... Matthew 22-23 Offered to All!**
- 7) 16 April..... Matthew 28a Where is Jesus?
- 8) 23 April..... Matthew 24-25 What About the Future?
- 9) 30 April..... Matthew 26a How Do We Remember?
- 10) 07 May..... Matthew 26b Do I Have the Strength?
- 11) 14 May..... Matthew 26c Loyal to Whom?
- 12) 21 May..... Matthew 27 Crucified for What?
- 13) 28 May..... Matthew 28b What Do We Do Now?

INTRODUCTION

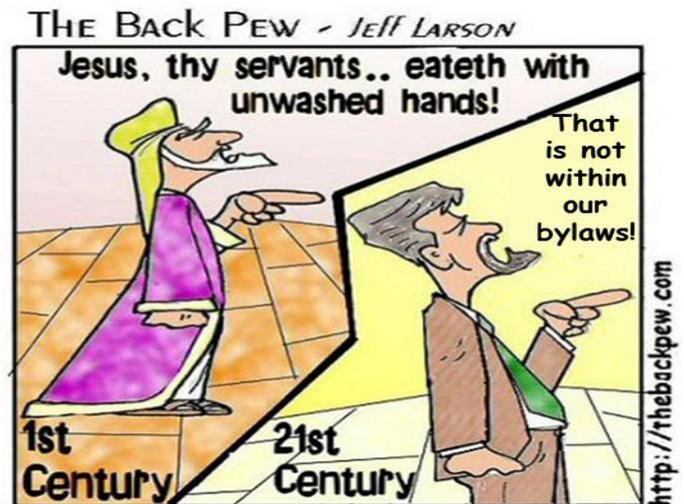
- Jesus puts the Pharisees and Sadducees in their place a few more times. Can we put people in their place at times? Should we?

Passage	Comments
Matthew 22:1-14	<p>Parable of the Marriage Feast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God intended to have the Jews use God's Laws to entice all nations to come to Him Deut 4:5-7; Mic 4:2 • vv1-9. These verses were to strike a nerve with Jewish listeners that their willful obstinacy was forcing God to extend the Gospel to the Gentiles without using them <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Lesson to be Learned. God doesn't need us to accomplish His will, but He wants to use us • v10. This verse alludes to the calling of the Gentiles who were considered dirty, wicked, and unworthy • vv11-13. But one dinner guest was not dressed appropriately. What does this mean? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this. Even Gentiles have to come to God on His terms (salvation through Christ), not on their terms (good works or good looks) • v14. "Many are called, but few are chosen." What does this mean? Will there be more people in Hell? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this. God extends salvation out to EVERYONE (Christ died for ALL), but apparently most will prefer to spend an eternity in Hell than one moment before a holy and righteous God ♦ Rev 8:1. Recall the half hour of silence in heaven. Even the Angels are dumbfounded by the stupidity of man. Then again, even 1/3 of all the angels were duped into following Satan (Rev 12:4).
22:15-22	<p>Tribute to Caesar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v18. Jesus calls the Herodians "hypocrites." Recall Mat 12:34, where Jesus called the Pharisees "You brood of vipers" – Did Jesus speak the truth in love to them? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ True discernment knows when it is time to call the baby ugly to try and correct foolishness Gal 2:11 ♦ Yes, Jesus had love for them – He died for them • Render to Caesar and render to God what rightfully belongs to them? What elements are these?
22:23-46	<p>Jesus Corrects False Doctrines of Religious Leaders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do people go wrong in interpreting the Bible? • It is in not knowing & applying the right principles of Hermeneutics. Every comma, jot, & tittle is crucial. • Here are some BAD hermeneutic practices... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Taking figurative language literally & literal language figuratively. Allowing the Implicit explain the Explicit. ♦ Force-fit the Bible into current knowledge of science ♦ Eisegesis – Make Bible say what you want it to say ♦ Speculation – Going beyond what Scripture intended ♦ Traditionalism – This is how we have always done it

Passage	Comments
23:1-12	<p>Legalism Exposed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-8. Principle to Live By: Obey those who have the rule over you even if they do not live by their own rules • vv9-10. What does it mean not to call someone on earth "father" or "leader"? Gill's Commentary says this: "Do not be ambitious of any such title, fond of it, or affected by it, or be elated with it, should it be given you; nor look upon yourselves as men of power and authority over others." IOW, it is an attitude thing. • v12. Another Powerful Principle to Live By: To be exalted, stay humbled before people and the Lord
Legalism Kills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharisees and Scribes considered their legalistic practices to be on par with the rest of Scripture • We are not to be "excessively righteous" Ecc 7:16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ In other words, going beyond what God intended is destructive. Examples: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keeping the Sabbath is GOOD, counting how many steps you could or could not walk on the Sabbath is BAD 2. Dress codes are nice, but if suits & ties & dresses determine one's spirituality → BAD 3. Others? _____
23:13-36	<p>Eight Woes → Leading to Ultimate Destruction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. v13 – You lead people to Hell & not to Heaven 2. v14 – You pray while you cheat people 3. v15 – Your converts turn out worse than you 4. v16 – Your priorities are in reverse order 5. v23 – Your Legalism overrides justice, mercy, & love 6. v25 – You look good on the outside, but ugly inside 7. v27 – Your whitewashed outside is a façade 8. v29 – You claim absolute righteousness
23:37-39	<p>Lament Over Jerusalem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it take to get the people we love the most to see the damage they are doing to themselves? • Even Jesus could not shower enough love on His own people to convert them to His righteousness

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS. How do we combat legalistic righteousness today? Remember – Jesus lost His life when He battled the whitewashed religious leaders – So it could be costly.

NEXT WEEK: Matthew 28:1-15. Easter Message.



Watch out when man-made rules, by-laws, & policies govern the church instead of the Bible.