**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?

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| Matthew 22:1-14 | **Parable of the Marriage Feast**
- 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
- **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?
- **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?
- **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).

| Matthew 22:15-22 | **Tribute to Caesar**
- 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?
- 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?

| Matthew 22:23-46 | **Jesus Corrects False Doctrines of Religious Leaders**
- Where do people go wrong in interpreting the Bible?
- It is in not knowing & applying the right principles of Hermeneutics. Every comma, jot, & little is crucial.
- Here are some BAD hermeneutic practices...
  - 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

| 23:1-12 | **Legalism Exposed**
- **v1-8. Principle to Live By:** Obey those who have the rule over you even if they do not live by their own rules
- **v9-10.** 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

| 23:13-36 | **Eight Woes ➔ Leading to Ultimate Destruction**
  - **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 | **Lament Over Jerusalem**
- **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.