

**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**

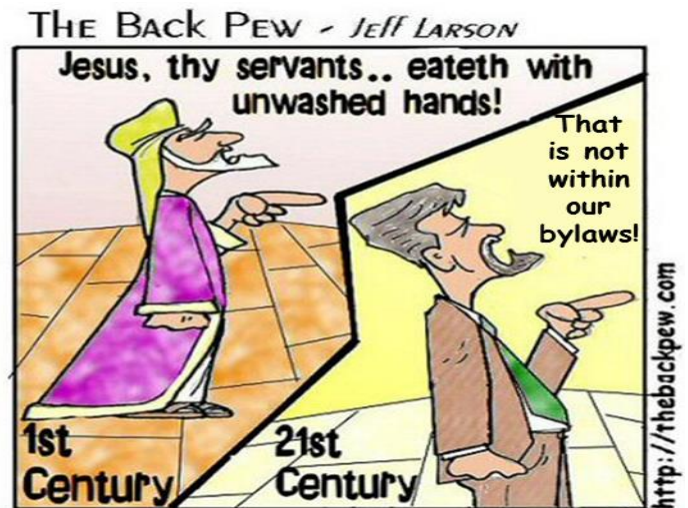
- Jesus puts the Pharisees and Sadducees in their place a few more times. Can we put people in their place at times? Should we?

Passage	Comments
Matthew 22:1-14	<p><b>Parable of the Marriage Feast</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God intended to have the Jews use God's Laws to entice all nations to come to Him .....<a href="#">Deut 4:5-7</a>; <a href="#">Mic 4:2</a></li> <li>• 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"> <li>♦ <b>Lesson to be Learned.</b> God doesn't need us to accomplish His will, but He wants to use us</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v10. This verse alludes to the calling of the Gentiles who were considered dirty, wicked, and unworthy</li> <li>• vv11-13. But one dinner guest was not dressed appropriately. What does this mean?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Consider this.</b> Even Gentiles have to come to God on His terms (salvation through Christ), not on their terms (good works or good looks)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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"> <li>♦ <b>Consider this.</b> 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</li> <li>♦ <a href="#">Rev 8:1</a>. 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 (<a href="#">Rev 12:4</a>).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
22:15-22	<p><b>Tribute to Caesar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v18. Jesus calls the Herodians "hypocrites." Recall <a href="#">Mat 12:34</a>, where Jesus called the Pharisees "You brood of vipers" – Did Jesus speak the truth in love to them?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ True discernment knows when it is time to call the baby ugly to try and correct foolishness ..... <a href="#">Gal 2:11</a></li> <li>♦ Yes, Jesus had love for them – He died for them</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Render to Caesar and render to God what rightfully belongs to them? What elements are these? _____</li> </ul>
22:23-46	<p><b>Jesus Corrects False Doctrines of Religious Leaders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where do people go wrong in interpreting the Bible?</li> <li>• It is in not knowing &amp; applying the right principles of <a href="#">Hermeneutics</a>. Every comma, jot, &amp; tittle is crucial.</li> <li>• Here are some BAD hermeneutic practices...                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Taking figurative language literally &amp; literal language figuratively. Allowing the Implicit explain the Explicit.</li> <li>♦ Force-fit the Bible into current knowledge of science</li> <li>♦ Eisegesis – Make Bible say what you want it to say</li> <li>♦ Speculation – Going beyond what Scripture intended</li> <li>♦ Traditionalism – This is how we have always done it</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
23:1-12	<p><b>Legalism Exposed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-8. <b>Principle to Live By:</b> Obey those who have the rule over you even if they do not live by their own rules</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• v12. <b>Another Powerful Principle to Live By:</b> To be exalted, stay humbled before people and the Lord</li> </ul>
Legalism Kills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pharisees and Scribes considered their legalistic practices to be on par with the rest of Scripture</li> <li>• We are not to be "excessively righteous" ..... <a href="#">Ecc 7:16</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ In other words, going beyond what God intended is destructive. Examples:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Keeping the Sabbath is GOOD, counting how many steps you could or could not walk on the Sabbath is BAD</li> <li>2. Dress codes are nice, but if suits &amp; ties &amp; dresses determine one's spirituality → BAD</li> <li>3. Others? _____</li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
23:13-36	<p><b>Eight Woes → Leading to Ultimate Destruction</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. v13 – You lead people to Hell &amp; not to Heaven</li> <li>2. v14 – You pray while you cheat people</li> <li>3. v15 – Your converts turn out worse than you</li> <li>4. v16 – Your priorities are in reverse order</li> <li>5. v23 – Your Legalism overrides justice, mercy, &amp; love</li> <li>6. v25 – You look good on the outside, but ugly inside</li> <li>7. v27 – Your whitewashed outside is a façade</li> <li>8. v29 – You claim absolute righteousness</li> </ol>
23:37-39	<p><b>Lament Over Jerusalem</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does it take to get the people we love the most to see the damage they are doing to themselves?</li> <li>• Even Jesus could not shower enough love on His own people to convert them to His righteousness</li> </ul>

**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.**