

Studies in the Life of Christ

N.T. Survey Lesson 42--Matthew 23

Introduction: Matthew twenty-three records Jesus' culminating rebuke of the Pharisees. Though filled with sharp reproof, it is an act of consummate love for men who had hardened their heart against the truth. Even now at this late date, the Lord is seeking their repentance.

Lesson aim: To show the manifestations of hypocrisy and the Lord's attitude toward it.

Jesus exposes the Pharisees' hypocrisy--Matthew 23:1-12

1. Where did Jesus say the Pharisees seated themselves? What did he say they did? What did he urge the multitudes to do?
2. What did the Pharisees do to impress others with their "spirituality"?
3. How did the Pharisees want to be treated by others? What attitude did this indicate?
4. Did Jesus prohibit the wearing of religious titles? Why?
5. What blessing did Jesus pronounce upon the humble?

Seven woes against the Pharisees--Matthew 23:15-36

1. How did the Pharisees interfere with those would enter the kingdom?
2. While for a pretense they made long prayers, what did the Pharisees do that was so inconsistent with this?
3. What would the Pharisees do with their proselytes?
4. Give an example of how the Pharisees made and manipulated God's law to justify false swearing.
5. Of what did the Pharisees tithe? What weightier matters of the Law did they neglect?
6. Describe the heart of the Pharisee (v. 25-28).

7. What did the Pharisees do with the tombs and monuments of the prophets? What did they claim they would not have done?
8. What did Jesus predict that the Pharisees would do to the messengers that He sent to them? Did this come to pass?
9. Where did Jesus say these hypocrites were going?

Jesus' lament over Jerusalem--Matthew 23:37-39

1. How did Jesus characterize Jerusalem?
2. What did Jesus say he wanted to do often? Why could He not do this?
3. What is Jesus' judgment on Jerusalem?
4. What did Jesus mean when he said, "You will not see until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord?'"