

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCT 24TH-25TH, 2020 // BOOK OF MATTHEW

## TWO COMMANDS (MATTHEW 22:34-40) THE 3RD STRIKE

After the Pharisees heard the Herodians and Sadducees also failed in tricking Jesus, they regrouped and joined forces to try and trap Jesus with a question about the 10 Commandments.

- The religious leaders had taken the simple 10 C's and made them into over 600 laws. **The human addition confused and convoluted the truth.**

### "TEACHER, WHICH COMMAND IS THE GREATEST?"

"Teacher" was used sarcastically. These people had no desire to learn from Jesus, but Jesus gave them the correct answer: **"Love the Lord...with all your heart, soul, and mind."**

- This was a direct quote from Deut. 6:4-5 that tells us to **love God with our emotions, in our spiritual lives, and with our intellect. Basically, all we have.**

## GIVING MORE THAN WHAT THEY ASKED

Loving God is the 1st command, but Jesus said the 2nd command is similar: **"Love your neighbor as yourself."**

- Jesus quotes Lev. 19:18 as a second great command from God. **Loving God should result in loving God's greatest creation, humanity. These two commands cannot be divorced.**

## THE WHOLE WORD RESTS ON THESE PRINCIPLES

Jesus said, "All the Law and the Prophets depend on these 2 commands." **This means the entire Old Testament and everything that would comprise the New Testament hinges on these 2 simple commands.**

- The reason the Bible is so dense is because it teaches us how to **love our Creator and His creation.**

## THE KING (MATTHEW 22:41-46) NOW JESUS ASKS A QUESTION

Jesus goes on the offensive again in order to expose the hypocrisy of the religious leaders. He went right to the root, "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose Son is He?"

- Messiah means anointed or chosen one. The Jews had been waiting for centuries for the prophesied Savior to come and liberate His people.

## THROUGH THE LINE OF KING DAVID

Every Jew knew the Messiah would come through David's bloodline. So, the Pharisees answer correctly. Jesus then quotes Psalm 110:1 and asks how the Savior can be David's descendant and Lord.

- The point was that the Messiah was more than a prophesied man, but God Himself coming as a man.

## FEELINGS OF HATE OVERSHADOWED THE TRUTH

Because of hatred, jealousy, and selfishness, the religious leaders ignored the truth right in front of them. The evidence was clear, but their **emotions won out over truth and reason.**

- This is the great lie of our age; **trust your feelings and follow your heart. We're to trust the Holy Spirit that will then navigate our emotions and desires.**

### "...NO ONE DARED TO QUESTION HIM ANYMORE."

After failing to trap Jesus multiple times, the religious leaders decided that it was better to stop questioning Him.

- **For people that put agenda before seeking the truth, the outcome is always the same: anger, frustration, and even hatred. Agendas don't liberate people, only the truth can do that.**

## SELF AS GOD (MATTHEW 23:1-12) THE INTRO TO THE "7 WOES"

Jesus turned to the crowds and His disciples and began to warn them to follow God's commands as they are written, but not the lifestyle of the religious leaders. This will come in 7 warnings or "woes."

- It goes back to what Jesus has been teaching repeatedly; **it is the fruit of our lives that really matter.**

## HOW TO LIVE UNDER POOR LEADERSHIP

Jesus said the leaders that "sit in Moses' seat" often say the correct things but don't "practice what they teach."

- **We need leaders to teach God's Word and to help us interpret it correctly, but we also need examples of how to live righteously. We must be people that not only speak truth, but live it.**

## HOLDING OTHERS TO A DIFFERENT STANDARD

The religious leaders expected others to do things that they were not willing to do. In other words, they didn't judge by the same standard that they applied to themselves (Mt. 7:2).

- **Making judgments is not wrong, and is actually commanded. The key is to judge righteously and without hypocrisy.**

## "THEY DO EVERYTHING TO BE SEEN BY OTHERS"

This sounds familiar. Not only were the religious leaders putting unreasonable expectations on the people, but they were insecure and had to advertise their status.

- **How often do we put hypocritical expectations on others? Do we also try to sell an inflated version of ourselves to impress others?**

## WHAT THE HECK IS A PHYLACTERY?

Jesus said many of the religious leaders would enlarge the box containing scripture on their arms and heads and also lengthen the tassels of their robes. This was their way of looking more spiritual without actually being more spiritual.

- We do similar things today, but **God still sees past the façade and into the heart.**

## BEING CAREFUL WITH TITLES (V8-10)

When Jesus said his followers cannot be called Rabbi, father, or instructors, He means that we need to be careful when we elevate human knowledge.

- **Titles should be received with humility, not used flippantly, and all credit for wisdom and intellect should ultimately be given to God.**

## THE CRUX OF THE MATTER

Jesus said, "The greatest among you will be your servant." This means that people who love and serve others because of their love for God are the ones that truly honor God. This is servant leadership.

- **Leadership on any level should be from the posture of servant. Not just for people like us, but for all people.**

## EXALTING OURSELVES HAS AN END POINT

If we lift ourselves up as our only authority, if our desires take precedent over God's, and if we try to apply a hypocritical standard on others, we will be humbled by God.

- Though this may not happen immediately, **if we don't voluntarily humble ourselves in this life we will involuntarily be humbled in the next.**

## WHAT IS A "GOD?"

- A ruler believed to have perfect power, wisdom, and goodness that holds supreme value. Something idolized.
- When we live like **we're in charge**, believe we have power to **do whatever we choose, think we know it all, and that we're intrinsically good**, we elevate ourselves to the status of a god.
- **We have bought into a lie.** We have been told that our reality is the ultimate reality, that truth is relative, that no one has authority over us, and that we can be what ever we want to be.
- The problem is the lie that says we can be like God leads to disappointment, hopelessness, and ultimately destruction.
- **Genesis 3:3-5 (CSB)**

## WHAT REALLY LEADS US?

- What do we love with our heart, soul, and mind? How do we use our time, energy, and money? **What do we really value most?**
- What government do we trust? Will it stand?
- **Who or what is our authority?**
- Have humans playing god yielded peace and contentment? **Who has culture exalted, and what will be the outcome?**
- **What really leads the direction of our lives? What we want, or what God wants?**