

## *Outwardly Religious. Inwardly Corrupt.*

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-4 Gil - Office closed Mon. Scholarships Winter Camps. Real. Better Together.
- B. Me - *Children at Risk* cancelled for the *Pro Life Go Mobil for life* event tonight.
  1. Slide5 Mercy Projects - hosting a *Ukraine Reception* 6pm this Wed b4 service, Agape rm

### II. Slide6 Intro: *Outwardly Religious. Inwardly Corrupt.*

- A. In dealing with the topic of *greatness*, In dealing with little ones, Jesus is **gentle**. In facing foes, He is **bold**.
  1. As we said, Jesus uses His strongest language in this ch.
  2. *Against who, unbelievers?* **No**, against those who **profess to be believers**, aka **hypocrites**.
- B. *What is a hypocrite?* The Greek word denotes someone acting out a part in a play.
  1. In Greek drama the actors held masks over their faces.
  2. Each mask was painted to represent the character, the actor played.
  3. *In real life*, a hypocrite is *a person who masks his real self, while he plays a part for his audience*.
- C. *Last week we talked about...* too often we wear masks to hide who we really are from others and from God. However, God can see through our mask.
  - a) *Put the mask on* and God **can't** work (It's hypocrisy, phony, duplicity).
  - b) *Take the mask off* and God **can** work (It's vulnerability, honesty, authenticity).
    - (1) Hopefully you turned in your mask last week to Jesus.
- D. Slide7a When **Ptolemy**, outstanding astronomer, astrologer, geographer, mathematician, of the 2nd century, decided to build the **Pharos** (island off Alexandria, Egypt), he chose **Sostratus** to design that mammoth **lighthouse**, which later became one of the Slide7b *7 Wonders of the Ancient World*.
  1. **Ptolemy** insisted that the structure should bear **his inscription** as a personal memorial; however, **Sostratus** didn't think the king should get all the credit.

2. Slide7c He therefore put the title of **Ptolemy** on the front of the lighthouse in a **thick plaster** which would be eye catching at first, but later would be worn away by the elements. Secretly he had cut **his own name** in the granite underneath.
  3. Slide7d For decades the sea dashed against the inscription and gradually eroded it. Though it lasted the lifetime of that earthly monarch, it finally was obliterated, leaving the name **Sostratus** standing in bold relief.
    - a) **The Pharisees** in this chapter wear their religion for all to see on the outside, proud of what they've built in their life...only to 1 day be exposed.
    - b) 1 day **all of us** will finally be exposed & only what is underneath/inside will last.
- E. Slide8 So far Jesus has warned the Religious leaders with 3 Parables. He's spoken directly to the Herodian's, Sadducees, & Pharisees. And now, He delivers 8 Woe's.
1. Jesus is pronouncing these **Woe's** not with a temper, not with meanness, but with **painful sorrow**. *We'll catch His heart in the last few verses.*
- F. 7 out of the 8 Woe's He calls them **Hypocrites**. In 1 He calls them **Blind Guides**.
1. **Hypocritical** as to their character; **blind guides** as to their leadership.

### III. Slide9 **WOE 1, DETOURING OTHERS FROM THE KINGDOM (13)**

- A. **Woe** – it infers **grief & deep regret**. [Anguish, not anger]
  1. Jesus' purpose for these **woe's** was to try to help **the religious leaders & the people they influenced**.
- B. It's bad enough to keep **yourself** out, but to stand in the way of **others**, is detestable.
  1. **How is your Lifestyle** keeping others from entering?
- C. If you disagree with Christianity & don't want any part of it (so be it), but don't you dare influence others to follow you to the pit.
- D. Slide10 \*You are either **detouring** others from the Kingdom or **inviting** them into it.

### IV. Slide11 **WOE 2, DAMAGING THE DEFENSELESS & SHOWY PRAYERS (14)**

- A. Some manuscripts omit this vs.14 ESV/NIV. **But** it is in Mrk.12:40 & Lk.20:47 **so** we know it is God's truth, even if it wasn't here.
- B. **2 Indictments**: Swindling widows & making pretentious (*attempting to impress*) prayers.
1. **Both** of these are bad enough by themselves, **both** make them guilty of the lowest Hell.
  2. They will have to stand before *the widows judge* one day. Ps.68:5 **A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation.**
    - a) God doesn't leave this even to **His best angel**, **but** takes this unto **Himself**.
    - b) His Mercy is extended to those *longing for families*. **He becomes their Father**. He is *the peculiar Guardian to the defenseless*.
    - c) He's *the President of Orphanages...the Protector of Widows*.
- C. **Note**: *greater condemnation* - proves that there are **degrees of punishment**, as there are **degrees in Glory**.
1. All the **ungodly** will be condemned by the **Righteous Judge**. **But** the **Greater damnation** is reserved for the *Hypocrites*, who behind their **mask** of *long prayers*, have been *ripping off widow's*.
    - a) **How are we ripping off widows?** Maybe by not being *a family* to them?
- D. **Slide12** \*You are either **damaging the defenseless** and showing off your long prayers or **helping the defenseless** and keeping your public prayers, short & honest.

## V. **Slide13 WOE 3, WINNING OTHERS OVER TO LEGALISM (15)**

- A. A **proselyte** is a convert to a cause. **They were out to win others to their legalistic system.**
- B. **Twice a son of hell** - The convert is usually shows much more zeal than his leader, thus this *dbl devotion* only produces *dbl condemnation*.
- C. **Slide14** \*You are either winning others over to **legalism** or winning them over to **grace**.

## VI. **Slide15 WOE 4, BLIND GUIDES WHO PLAY W/MAN MADE RULES (16-22)**

- A. They were the **religious guides** of the Jews. **Willfully Foolish, Willfully Blind.**
- B. (17) **Fools** - They thought they were wise, He calls them Fools.
  1. **Blind** - Sin, prejudice, bigotry, & hypocrisy had blinded their eyes.

2. Spurgeon said, There are none so stupid as those who **will not** learn, & none so blind as those who **will not** see.
- C. They tried to come up with different ways to *swear/vow* without using the Divine Name.
  1. He points out their folly in reversing *the right order* of things.
    - a) He shows they were doing the very thing they tried to avoid.
  2. Stick to *letting your yes be yes & no, no*. Mt.5:34-36.
- D. Slide16 \*You're either *playing w/man made rules* or *living out the great realities* of faith.

## VII. Slide17 **WOE 5, MAJORING ON MINORS (23,24)**

- A. They were so *punctilious* to *tiny details* (tithing their smallest herb plants) **while** disregarding the *law's true heart* (the weightier matters).
  1. They were *sticklers* for *detail* and yet *blind* to *great principles*.
  2. They were using a *microscope* for *details* and a *kaleidoscope* for *doctrines*.
    - a) *The Talmud tells of the ass of a certain Rabbi which had been so well trained as to refuse corn of which the tithes had not been taken.* Vincent
- B. **Justice, Mercy, & Faith** are the important qualities God is seeking.
- C. Jesus didn't condemn *tithing*. He condemned when you allow your legalistic scruples to keep you from developing true Christian character.
- D. (24) **Strain out a gnat** or Filter out a gnat. **And swallow a camel**(hyperbole). *Camel Consumption*
  1. Both insect & camels were ceremonially unclean.
  2. They strain a gnat from their wine, so as not to be defiled. **Yet**, they commit great sins w/o any twinge of conscience **therefore** swallowing a camel, humps and all.
- E. Slide18 \*You are either **majoring on the minors** or you are **majoring on the majors**.

## VIII. Slide19 **WOE'S 6-8, OUTWARDLY RELIGIOUS, INWARDLY CORRUPT (23,24)**

- A. Slide20 **WOE 6, INSIDE OUT (25,26)**
- B. They had frequent washings. Both of *themselves* & of *their vessels*.
- C. Jesus shows it is possible to be clean on the **outside**, **yet** defiled on the **inside**.

- D. Jesus looked into **their cup** & saw greed & self-indulgence.
1. As Jesus peers into **your cup** this morning what does He see?
- E. Here was their supreme fault & failure: *Attention to **externalism**, to the neglect of the **internal** condition of their life.*
- F. If your only focusing on your externals & not your heart, than your a 20th cent Pharisee.
- G. Slide21 \*You are either **clean on the outside & dirty inside** or you are **clean inside**, which leads to a **clean outside**.
- H. Slide22 WOE 7, WHITEWASHED TOMBS (27,28)
- I. Jesus in one fell swoop, sliced a **beautiful red polished apple** right in 1/2 & exposed a **juicy brown worm** eating away at the **core**. [bad sunflower seed. walnut w/worm]
- J. The Jews were careful not to touch anything related to dead bodies.
1. One month before Passover they'd whitewash the tombs. *Remember it's only 3 days from Passover. He's probably looking at one right then.*
  2. **Contact w/a grave caused defilement. Contact w/these Pharisees did likewise.**
- K. **Dead men's bones** - what a graphic snapshot of the hypocrite.
1. **Illus: Painted Hand Pump - Babrov, Russia.** Our hotel had such dirty water. Driving out the next morning I noticed they had painted the hand pumps white on the street corners. **It didn't make the water sweeter.**
- L. D.L. Moody said, *If I take care of my **character**, my **reputation** will care for itself.*
- M. The Pharisee's lived for reputation, not character.
- N. Slide23 WOE 8 - PROPHET PERSECUTORS (29-36)
- O. (29) The Pharisees *built, improved, & embellished* the tombs of the Prophets (*ie. Davids*). Which was a false profession of reverence of the prophets.
1. *Their fathers killed the prophets. And they put monuments up to killed prophets. And they went on with the same business of killing prophets.*<sup>1</sup>
- P. (30) What irony that at that very moment they were already plotting the death of *the Lord of Prophets*.

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<sup>1</sup> G.Campbell Morgan, pg.150.

Q. (32) **Fill up** - Top it off. Top off your cup...with my blood.

1. **Go ahead & finish what your fathers started.** *Israel's measure was almost full.*

R. (33) A good surgeon *cuts deep*...so did Jesus.

S. (35) This **Zechariah** is found in **2 Chron.24:20-22** the last book in the bible...Hebrew bible that is. **So from Genesis to Malachi. A to Z. Whole range of OT history is indicated.**

T. (36) The Prophet has spoken.

1. Instead of **hearing** the **woe's** and **coming out of darkness**, they just tried to **snuff out the light**.
2. **And** it was before that generation had passed a way that Jerusalem was besieged & destroyed, ad 70.

## IX. Slide24 **NOT WILLING (37-39)**

A. (37) Don't miss this...this chapter, **w/the heaviest indictment**, *ends w/sobs & tears*.

B. **Jerusalem**, the nation of Israel. **Jerusalem, Jerusalem** signifies *deep emotion*.

1. Just like *Absalom, Absalom. Martha, Martha. Saul, Saul.*

C. **I wanted to gather...you were not willing** - this summarizes the tragedy of final rejection of truth.

1. Jn.5:39,40 *You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.*

D. **Moses** used this analogy of *the hen gathering her chicks* in **his** farewell sermon also (Deut32:11).

1. *What a picture this is of love, tender care & a willingness to die to protect others*

E. (38) The Temple was **My house** (21:13), **but** now it had been abandoned & left empty. **Which Jesus does next...see 24:1.**

F. (39) **Yet**, Jesus leaves the nation w/a **promise**...**He would 1 day return.** I shall return. **or I'll be back.**

1. He will remove His presence from Israel **until** the Great Tribulation...*which segue's us into the end times teaching next.*
2. **Till**...long ages have passed since the king went away into the far country.
3. The signs of the times tell us His coming is drawing near.

G. Against the background of this indictment, we see one last touching portrait of Jesus. As He *condemned* these hypocrites, *His heart broke* for them and for the crowds who would soon scream for His death.

1. In anguish, Jesus cried out...(msg) *Jerusalem! Jerusalem! Murderer of prophets! Killer of the ones who brought you God's news! How often I've ached to embrace your children, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you wouldn't let me. And now you're so desolate, nothing but a ghost town. What is there left to say? Only this: I'm out of here soon. The next time you see me you'll say, Oh, God has blessed him! He's come, bringing God's rule!*