

The Book of Matthew

EDITOR'S NOTE: *THE BIBLE IS LIKE NO OTHER BOOK, FOR IT HOLDS THE VERY WORDS OF GOD, WHICH HAVE POWER TO CHANGE THE LIVES OF ANY WHO READ IT AND PUT THEIR FAITH IN OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. PSALM 34:8 SAYS, "OH, TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD! BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO TAKES REFUGE IN HIM!" THROUGH THE NEBRASKA LIVING TIMES YOU MAY "TASTE" AND SEE THE GOODNESS OF GOD THROUGH HIS VERY OWN WORDS, EACH MONTH, RIGHT HERE. MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH HIS WORD!*

(CONTINUED FROM MAY 2017)

CHAPTER 22

THE PARABLE OF THE WEDDING FEAST

1 AND AGAIN JESUS SPOKE TO THEM IN PARABLES, SAYING, 2 "THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN MAY BE COMPARED TO A KING WHO GAVE A WEDDING FEAST FOR HIS SON, 3 AND SENT HIS SERVANTS TO CALL THOSE WHO WERE INVITED TO THE WEDDING FEAST, BUT THEY WOULD NOT COME. 4 AGAIN HE SENT OTHER SERVANTS, SAYING, 'TELL THOSE WHO ARE INVITED, "SEE, I HAVE PREPARED MY DINNER, MY OXEN AND MY FAT CALVES HAVE BEEN SLAUGHTERED, AND EVERYTHING IS READY. COME TO THE WEDDING FEAST."' 5 BUT THEY PAID NO ATTENTION AND WENT OFF, ONE TO HIS FARM, ANOTHER TO HIS BUSINESS, 6 WHILE THE REST SEIZED HIS SERVANTS, TREATED THEM SHAMEFULLY, AND KILLED THEM. 7 THE KING WAS ANGRY, AND HE SENT HIS TROOPS AND DESTROYED THOSE MURDERERS AND BURNED THEIR CITY. 8 THEN HE SAID TO HIS SERVANTS, 'THE WEDDING FEAST IS READY, BUT THOSE INVITED WERE NOT WORTHY. 9 GO THEREFORE TO THE MAIN ROADS AND INVITE TO THE WEDDING FEAST AS MANY AS YOU FIND.' 10 AND THOSE SERVANTS WENT OUT INTO THE ROADS AND GATHERED ALL WHOM THEY FOUND, BOTH BAD AND GOOD. SO THE WEDDING HALL WAS FILLED WITH GUESTS.

11 "BUT WHEN THE KING CAME IN TO LOOK AT THE GUESTS, HE SAW THERE A MAN WHO HAD NO WEDDING GARMENT. 12 AND HE SAID TO HIM, 'FRIEND, HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE WITHOUT A WEDDING GARMENT?' AND HE WAS SPEECHLESS. 13 THEN THE KING SAID TO THE ATTENDANTS, 'BIND HIM HAND AND FOOT AND CAST HIM INTO THE OUTER DARKNESS. IN THAT PLACE THERE WILL BE WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH.' 14 FOR MANY ARE CALLED, BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN."

PAYING TAXES TO CAESAR

15 THEN THE PHARISEES WENT AND PLOTTED HOW TO ENTANGLE HIM IN HIS WORDS. 16 AND THEY SENT THEIR DISCIPLES TO HIM, ALONG WITH THE HERODIANS, SAYING, "TEACHER, WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE TRUE AND TEACH THE WAY OF GOD TRUTHFULLY, AND YOU DO NOT CARE

ABOUT ANYONE'S OPINION, FOR YOU ARE NOT SWAYED BY APPEARANCES. 17 TELL US, THEN, WHAT YOU THINK. IS IT LAWFUL TO PAY TAXES TO CAESAR, OR NOT?" 18 BUT JESUS, AWARE OF THEIR MALICE, SAID, "WHY PUT ME TO THE TEST, YOU HYPOCRITES? 19 SHOW ME THE COIN FOR THE TAX." AND THEY BROUGHT HIM A DENARIUS. 20 AND JESUS SAID TO THEM, "WHOSE LIKENESS AND INSCRIPTION IS THIS?" 21 THEY SAID, "CAESAR'S." THEN HE SAID TO THEM, "THEREFORE RENDER TO CAESAR THE THINGS THAT ARE CAESAR'S, AND TO GOD THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD'S." 22 WHEN THEY HEARD IT, THEY MARVELED. AND THEY LEFT HIM AND WENT AWAY.

SADDUCEES ASK ABOUT THE RESURRECTION

23 THE SAME DAY SADDUCEES CAME TO HIM, WHO SAY THAT THERE IS NO RESURRECTION, AND THEY ASKED HIM A QUESTION, 24 SAYING, "TEACHER, MOSES SAID, 'IF A MAN DIES HAVING NO CHILDREN, HIS BROTHER MUST MARRY THE WIDOW AND RAISE UP OFFSPRING FOR HIS BROTHER.' 25 NOW THERE WERE SEVEN BROTHERS AMONG US. THE FIRST MARRIED AND DIED, AND HAVING NO OFFSPRING LEFT HIS WIFE TO HIS BROTHER. 26 SO TOO THE SECOND AND THIRD, DOWN TO THE SEVENTH. 27 AFTER THEM ALL, THE WOMAN DIED. 28 IN THE RESURRECTION, THEREFORE, OF THE SEVEN, WHOSE WIFE WILL SHE BE? FOR THEY ALL HAD HER."

29 BUT JESUS ANSWERED THEM, "YOU ARE WRONG, BECAUSE YOU KNOW NEITHER THE SCRIPTURES NOR THE POWER OF GOD. 30 FOR IN THE RESURRECTION THEY NEITHER MARRY NOR ARE GIVEN IN MARRIAGE, BUT ARE LIKE ANGELS IN HEAVEN. 31 AND AS FOR THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD, HAVE YOU NOT READ WHAT WAS SAID TO YOU BY GOD: 32 'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB'? HE IS NOT GOD OF THE DEAD, BUT OF THE LIVING." 33 AND WHEN THE CROWD HEARD IT, THEY WERE ASTONISHED AT HIS TEACHING.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

34 BUT WHEN THE PHARISEES HEARD THAT HE HAD SILENCED THE SADDUCEES, THEY GATHERED TOGETHER. 35 AND ONE OF THEM, A LAWYER, ASKED HIM A QUESTION TO

TEST HIM. 36 "TEACHER, WHICH IS THE GREAT COMMANDMENT IN THE LAW?" 37 AND HE SAID TO HIM, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. 38 THIS IS THE GREAT AND FIRST COMMANDMENT. 39 AND A SECOND IS LIKE IT: YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. 40 ON THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS DEPEND ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS."

WHOSE SON IS THE CHRIST?

41 NOW WHILE THE PHARISEES WERE GATHERED TOGETHER, JESUS ASKED THEM A QUESTION, 42 SAYING, "WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CHRIST? WHOSE SON IS HE?" THEY SAID TO HIM, "THE SON OF DAVID." 43 HE SAID TO THEM, "HOW IS IT THEN THAT DAVID, IN THE SPIRIT, CALLS HIM LORD, SAYING,

44 "THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, 'SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES UNDER YOUR FEET'?"

45 IF THEN DAVID CALLS HIM LORD, HOW IS HE HIS SON?" 46 AND NO ONE WAS ABLE TO ANSWER HIM A WORD, NOR FROM THAT DAY DID ANYONE DARE TO ASK HIM ANY MORE QUESTIONS.

CHAPTER 23

SEVEN WOES TO THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES

1 THEN JESUS SAID TO THE CROWDS AND TO HIS DISCIPLES, 2 "THE SCRIBES AND THE PHARISEES SIT ON MOSES' SEAT, 3 SO DO AND OBSERVE WHATEVER THEY TELL YOU, BUT NOT THE WORKS THEY DO. FOR THEY PREACH, BUT DO NOT PRACTICE. 4 THEY TIE UP HEAVY BURDENS, HARD TO BEAR, AND LAY THEM ON PEOPLE'S SHOULDERS, BUT THEY THEMSELVES ARE NOT WILLING TO MOVE THEM WITH THEIR FINGER. 5 THEY DO ALL THEIR DEEDS TO BE SEEN BY OTHERS. FOR THEY MAKE THEIR PHYLACTERIES BROAD AND THEIR FRINGES LONG, 6 AND THEY LOVE THE PLACE OF HONOR AT FEASTS AND THE BEST SEATS IN THE SYNAGOGUES 7 AND GREETINGS IN THE MARKETPLACES AND BEING CALLED RABBI BY OTHERS. 8 BUT YOU ARE NOT TO BE CALLED RABBI, FOR YOU HAVE ONE TEACHER, AND YOU ARE ALL BROTHERS. 9 AND CALL NO MAN YOUR FATHER ON EARTH, FOR YOU HAVE ONE FATHER, WHO IS IN HEAVEN. 10 NEITHER BE

CALLED INSTRUCTORS, FOR YOU HAVE ONE INSTRUCTOR, THE CHRIST. 11 THE GREATEST AMONG YOU SHALL BE YOUR SERVANT. 12 WHOEVER EXALTS HIMSELF WILL BE HUMBLED, AND WHOEVER HUMBLING HIMSELF WILL BE EXALTED.

13 "BUT WOE TO YOU, SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, HYPOCRITES! FOR YOU SHUT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN PEOPLE'S FACES. FOR YOU NEITHER ENTER YOURSELVES NOR ALLOW THOSE WHO WOULD ENTER TO GO IN. 15 WOE TO YOU, SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, HYPOCRITES! FOR YOU TRAVEL ACROSS SEA AND LAND TO MAKE A SINGLE PROSELYTE, AND WHEN HE BECOMES A PROSELYTE, YOU MAKE HIM TWICE AS MUCH A CHILD OF HELL AS YOURSELVES. 16 "WOE TO YOU, BLIND GUIDES, WHO SAY, 'IF ANYONE SWEARS BY THE TEMPLE, IT IS NOTHING, BUT IF ANYONE SWEARS BY THE GOLD OF THE TEMPLE, HE IS BOUND BY HIS OATH.' 17 YOU BLIND FOOLS! FOR WHICH IS GREATER, THE GOLD OR THE TEMPLE THAT HAS MADE THE GOLD SACRED? 18 AND YOU SAY, 'IF ANYONE SWEARS BY THE ALTAR, IT IS NOTHING, BUT IF ANYONE SWEARS BY THE GIFT THAT IS ON THE ALTAR, HE IS BOUND BY HIS OATH.' 19 YOU BLIND MEN! FOR WHICH IS GREATER, THE GIFT OR THE ALTAR THAT MAKES THE GIFT SACRED? 20 SO WHOEVER SWEARS BY THE ALTAR SWEARS BY IT AND BY EVERYTHING ON IT. 21 AND WHOEVER SWEARS BY THE TEMPLE SWEARS BY IT AND BY HIM WHO DWELLS IN IT. 22 AND WHOEVER SWEARS BY HEAVEN SWEARS BY THE THRONE OF GOD AND BY HIM WHO SITS UPON IT.

23 "WOE TO YOU, SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, HYPOCRITES! FOR YOU TITHE MINT AND DILL AND CUMIN, AND HAVE NEGLECTED THE WEIGHTIER MATTERS OF THE LAW: JUSTICE AND MERCY AND FAITHFULNESS. THESE YOU OUGHT TO HAVE DONE, WITHOUT NEGLECTING THE OTHERS. 24 YOU BLIND GUIDES, STRAINING OUT A GNAT AND SWALLOWING A CAMEL! 25 "WOE TO YOU, SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, HYPOCRITES! FOR YOU CLEAN THE OUTSIDE OF THE CUP AND THE PLATE, BUT INSIDE THEY ARE FULL OF GREED AND SELF-INDULGENCE. 26 YOU BLIND PHARISEE! FIRST CLEAN THE INSIDE

OF THE CUP AND THE PLATE, THAT THE OUTSIDE ALSO MAY BE CLEAN. 27 "WOE TO YOU, SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, HYPOCRITES! FOR YOU ARE LIKE WHITENED TOMBS, WHICH OUTWARDLY APPEAR BEAUTIFUL, BUT WITHIN ARE FULL OF DEAD PEOPLE'S BONES AND ALL UNCLEANNESS. 28 SO YOU ALSO OUTWARDLY APPEAR RIGHTEOUS TO OTHERS, BUT WITHIN YOU ARE FULL OF HYPOCRISY AND LAWLESSNESS. 29 "WOE TO YOU, SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, HYPOCRITES! FOR YOU BUILD THE TOMBS OF THE PROPHETS AND DECORATE THE MONUMENTS OF THE RIGHTEOUS, 30 SAYING, 'IF WE HAD LIVED IN THE DAYS OF OUR FATHERS, WE WOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN PART WITH THEM IN SHEDDING THE BLOOD OF THE PROPHETS.' 31 THUS YOU WITNESS AGAINST YOURSELVES THAT YOU ARE SONS OF THOSE WHO MURDERED THE PROPHETS. 32 FILL UP, THEN, THE MEASURE OF YOUR FATHERS. 33 YOU SERPENTS, YOU BROOD OF VIPERS, HOW ARE YOU TO ESCAPE BEING SENTENCED TO HELL? 34 THEREFORE I SEND YOU PROPHETS AND WISE MEN AND SCRIBES, SOME OF WHOM YOU WILL KILL AND CRUCIFY, AND SOME YOU WILL FLOG IN YOUR SYNAGOGUES AND PERSECUTE FROM TOWN TO TOWN, 35 SO THAT ON YOU MAY COME ALL THE RIGHTEOUS BLOOD SHED ON EARTH, FROM THE BLOOD OF RIGHTEOUS ABEL TO THE BLOOD OF ZECHARIAH THE SON OF BARACHIAH, WHOM YOU MURDERED BETWEEN THE SANCTUARY AND THE ALTAR. 36 TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, ALL THESE THINGS WILL COME UPON THIS GENERATION.

LAMENT OVER JERUSALEM

37 "O JERUSALEM, JERUSALEM, THE CITY THAT KILLS THE PROPHETS AND STONES THOSE WHO ARE SENT TO IT! HOW OFTEN WOULD I HAVE GATHERED YOUR CHILDREN TOGETHER AS A HEN GATHERS HER BROOD UNDER HER WINGS, AND YOU WERE NOT WILLING! 38 SEE, YOUR HOUSE IS LEFT TO YOU DESOLATE. 39 FOR I TELL YOU, YOU WILL NOT SEE ME AGAIN, UNTIL YOU SAY, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.'"

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