

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is a hypocrite?
2. How does God look at hypocrisy?
3. How did the Pharisees get caught up in the details of their additional laws and regulations, and miss God, to whom the laws pointed?
4. How can a person become self-righteous?
5. What does verse 23 mean?
6. Can the heart be right without the outward appearance clean?
7. Can the outward appearance be clean and the heart wrong?
8. How does the condition of the heart manifest itself outwardly?

### SUMMARY:

The Pharisees and scribes were teaching a religion based only on the outward keeping of the law. Jesus pointed out the fallacy of this teaching showing that the heart must be pure (a cleansed heart) and then these things were to follow (vs. 23). Jesus so often said, "Woe unto you" to these teachers for their lack of the proper teaching of God's Word. As a result of their teachings, the whole house of Israel turned against Jesus and was cut off until that day when they would say "blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord." (vs. 39)

### NOTES:

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #12

December 18, 2022

Fourth Quarter

### THE HYPOCRITIC WAY

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**LESSON TEXT:** *Matthew 23:16-39*

**LESSON SETTING:** Christ teaches the people about hypocrisy.

**TIME:** About 33 A.D.

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**I. STRESSING MINOR THINGS.** Matthew 23:16-22

- A. False Teachings (vs. 16) Matthew 15:9; 1 Timothy 6:3; 2 Timothy 4:3; 2 Peter 2:1
- B. Spiritual Blindness (vs. 17-22) Isaiah 59:8; Micah 4:12; Ephesians 4:18

**II. EMPHASIZING EXTERNALS.** Matthew 23:23-28

- A. Outward Appearances (vs. 23, 25) 1 Samuel 16:7; John 7:24; 2 Corinthians 5:12
- B. Evil Hearts (vs. 25, 28) Ecclesiastes 8:11; Mark 7:21; Hebrews 3:12; 2 Peter 2:14

**III. SERIOUSNESS OF FALSE TEACHINGS.** Matthew 23:29-39

- A. Woe Unto You (vs. 29) Matthew 18:7; Luke 6:24-27; Jude 10-11
- B. Stubbornness (vs. 37) Exodus 32:9; Jeremiah 44:16; Acts 7:51
- C. Separation from God (vs. 38, 39) Isaiah 59:2; 64:7; Hosea 5:6; Romans 1:24

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**GOLDEN TEXT:** *IF THOU HADST KNOWN, EVEN THOU, AT LEAST IN THIS THY DAY, THE THINGS WHICH BELONG UNTO THY PEACE!*

Luke 19:42

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** Isaiah 7:10-16; 9:1-7; 11:1-5

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Isaiah 60:1-3;  
Matthew 1:18-25; 4:12-16;  
Luke 1:26 through 2:20

**QUARTERLY THEME:** Christ - King and Savior

**TOPIC:** THE KING'S COMING FORETOLD

**INTRODUCTION:**

Our lesson deals with the prophecies of the coming of the Lord. These were written many hundreds of years before He came. Yet today we have scriptural evidence that all these things have been fulfilled. Not only do we have scriptural evidence but also everyone who has been "born again" gives personal testimony that Jesus lives as Savior, Redeemer, and King of their lives.

The most minute details of Jesus' birth are recorded in these prophecies but the greatest of all the prophecies are that He will rule as King, that He must rule our hearts if He is to be our guide and our counselor.

Just as people looked for His appearing even until His coming so likewise we today look for His second coming. Let us learn a lesson from the Israelites, who, being aware that He would come, did not prepare their hearts to receive Him. All evidence today indicates that His second coming is very imminent, yet the world goes on and on as though He is still far away or even non-existent. When He comes as King of Kings will He find us as obedient, loving subjects or will He find us resisting the truth? To resist means judgment and fiery condemnation.

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** Christ is the only hope of the world.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN: AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER.*  
Isaiah 9:6

A prophecy of the coming of the Lord! How people must have longed for this. How they must have longed for the joy and peace that other verses in this chapter of Isaiah proclaimed in connection with the birth of the Messiah. Yet how few had prepared their hearts and were in such a position before God that they could see this being fulfilled. Only a few shepherds witnessed this and in a far off land a few wise men who recognized the signs. It seems almost unbelievable that so few were really looking for the Lord.

Yet today how many hear about the Lord Jesus and in their hearts long for real joy and peace, but are not willing to prepare their hearts and seek His salvation, who are not willing to come out from the world. People are still the same today as they were 2000 years ago.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 19 – 25**

- M. \*The King's Coming Foretold. Isaiah 7:10-16; 9:1-7; 11:1-5
- T. A Virgin Conceives. Matthew 1:18-25
- W. The Angels' Announcement. Luke 1:26-35
- T. Simeon Prophecies. Luke 2:25-35
- F. Zacharias Prophecies. Luke 1:67-79
- S. The King is Worshipped. Matthew 21:1-11
- S. Jesus, King of Kings. Revelation 19:9-16

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