

JESUS WARNS THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES OF THEIR ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION IF THEY CONTINUE IN THEIR PRESENT PATH JESUS PRONOUNCED EIGHT DENUNCIATIONS EACH BEGINNING WITH **WOE TO YOU** DENOUNCING FALSE RELIGION AS AN ABOMINATION TO GOD AND WORTHY OF SEVERE CONDEMNATION

V13 JESUS FIRST DENUNCIATION CONCERNED THE FACT THAT THE PHARISEES WERE PERVENTING OTHERS FROM ENTERING THE KINGDOM THEIR REJECTION OF JESUS HAD CAUSED MANY TO TURN AWAY FROM JESUS THEY WERE STUMBLING BLOCKS FOR THIS THEY STOOD CONDEMNED

V14 THIS WOE DEMONSTRATED THE INCONSISTENCY OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS THEY MADE LONG PRAYERS TO IMPRESS PEOPLE WITH THEIR SPIRITUALITY BUT ALSO OPPRESSED WIDOWS THEY SHOULD HAVE HELPED

V15 THIS WOE ADRESSED THE ACTIVITY OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS THEY TRAVELED NOT ONLY OVER LAND BUT OVER THE SEA TO MAKE A SINGLE CONVERT TO JUDAISM THE PROBLEM WAS THAT BY THEIR ACTIONS THEY WERE CONDEMNING THEM TO ETERNAL DAMNATION

BY IMPOSING EXTERNAL RESTRICTIONS OF RABINIC TRADITIONS ON THEIR CONVERTS PREVENTING THEM FROM SEEING THE TRUTH IN FACT THEY BECAME TWICE AS MUCH A SON OF HELL AS THE PHARISEES DESERVING ETERNAL PUNISHMENT

V16-22 IN THIS WOE JESUS POINTS OUT THEIR DECEPTIVE CHARACTER WHEN TAKING OATHS THEY LEFT ROOM TO DENY THEM IF THEY SWORE BY THE TEMPLE OR BY THE ALTAR OF THE TEMPLE IT MEANT NOTHING TO THEM WHILE APPEARING TO BE MAKING A BINDING OATH THEY HAD NO INTENTION OF KEEPING IT

BUT IF THEY SWORE BY THE GOLD OF THE TEMPLE OR THE GIFT ON THE ALTAR THEY WOULD BE BOUND BY THE OATH JESUS SAID THEY WERE WRONG IN BELIEVING THAT THE GOLD WAS GREATER THAN THE TEMPLE AND THE GIFT WAS GREATER THAN THE ALTAR

JESUS POINTED OUT THAT ANY OATH BASED ON THE TEMPLE OR IN IT WAS BINDING FOR BEHIND THE TEMPLE WAS THE ONE WHO DWELT IN IT THIS WAS PARALLEL TO MAKING AN OATH BY GOD'S THRONE BECAUSE OF THE ONE WHO SAT ON THE THRONE THEIR DECEPTION WAS CONDEMNED BY JESUS THEY WERE BLIND GUIDES

V23-24 THIS WOE WAS RELATED TO THEIR PRACTICE OF THITHING THEY WENT SO FAR AS TO TITHE ON THEIR HERBS BUT THEY FAILED TO MANIFEST JUSTICE MERCY AND FAITHFULNESS ALSO DEMANDED BY THE LAW THEY WERE MAJORING ON MINORS STAINING OUT A GNAT WHILE MINORING ON MAJORS SWALLOWING A CAMEL

JESUS IS SAYING THEY WERE COMPLETELY NEGLECTING ONE AREA AT THE EXPENSE OF ANOTHER THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN DOING BOTH BUT THEY WERE BLIND GUIDES AND IF THE BLIND LEAD THE BLIND THEY BOTH FALL INTO THE PIT
MATT 15:14

V25-26 THEY WERE HIPOCRITES THEY WERE CONCERNED WITH OUTWARD APPEARANCE BUT INWARDLY THEY WERE FULL OF ROBBERY AND SELF INDULGENCE THEY WERE DECIEVERS AND THEY DECIEVED THEMSELVES AND OTHERS

SALVATION IS AN INWARD CHANGE THAT AFFECTS OUR OUTWARD BEHAVIOR IT IS A CHANGE OF HEART A CHANGE OF DESIRE A RENEWED MIND NO LONGER LIVING FOR THE TEMPORARY PLEASURES OF THIS LIFE BUT FOR THE ETERNAL REWARDS OF THE NEXT

THE APOSTLE PAUL CALLED IT LIVING THE CRUCIFIED LIFE GAL 2:20 HE SAID I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST AND IT IS NO LONGER I WHO LIVE BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME AND THE LIFE WHICH I NOW LIVE IN THE FLESH I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR ME

PAUL UNDERSTOOD GRACE HE KNEW THAT IF RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM THE LAW THEN CHRIST DIED NEEDLESSLY

GAL 2:21 PAUL UNDERSTOOD THAT SALVATION WAS A WORK OF GOD AND NOT THE WORK OF MAN

PAUL HIMSELF HAD BEEN A PHARISEE PHILIP 3:1-6 BUT GOD HAD MERCY ON HIM ACTS 9:1-19