

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship



“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28

“This Is So Offensive”

Luke 11:45-54

April 2, 2023

- 6 “woes” – 3 this week and 3 next week.

“Woe” – you are in grave danger. A pronouncement of judgement.

1st “Woe”: You are obsessed with minutia.

2nd “Woe”: You love attention.

3rd “Woe”: You defile others by your influence.

Luke 11:45-54

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“lawyers” = scribes (vs. 53)

- They were the architects of the entire Pharisaical system. They wrote all of the laws, rules, and regulations. They were the ones who interpreted the 613.
- They created a complex system of interpretations that included allegories, mystical definitions, and secret meanings.
- That is how religion controls people – “You can’t interpret the Scriptures, or the sacred books, only the leaders can. Follow us and our teachings and we will lead you into truth.”
- To oppose their interpretation and application was heresy, and in Jesus’ case because He blew up the system, was worthy of death.

“insult” – υβριζω – to offend, to shame, to bring reproach.

“No one ever talked to us this way. Where is your respect?”

- Jesus is an “equal opportunity offender.”

“The gospel is good news to those who know they don’t measure up. It’s offensive to those who think they do.”

- Tullian Tchividjian

“Don’t ever water down the gospel.
If the truth offends, then let it offend.
People have been living their whole lives
in offense to God.
Let them be offended for a while.”

- John MacArthur

8 billion people in the world that are offended by the gospel:

1.9 billion are in Islam

1.1 billion are Hindus

$\frac{3}{4}$ of a billion Buddhists

1.1 billion Roman Catholics

220 million are Greek Orthodox

85 million Anglicans

80 million Methodists

3.3 million are ELCA Lutherans

14.7 million - Judaism

6-7 billion in man-made or apostate religions.

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“It would have been better for them to keep their mouths shut.”

- Why? Here comes 3 more damning “woe’s” directed at the lawyers.

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4th "Woe": Your requirements are hypocritical.

- The lawyers designed the system.
- It was nearly an impossible system to live.
- But they didn't themselves follow their own system.

"touch" – προσψαυω - to move your finger over something, to impinge.

- "You won't lift your little finger to do what you require of others."
- They found loopholes.

“A Pharisee is hard on others and easy on himself, but a spiritual man is easy on others and hard on himself.”

- A.W. Tozer

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Matt 11:28-30

28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Sabbath was a hard day for Israel under Pharisaicalism -

- On the Sabbath, a man could not carry something in his right hand or in his left hand, across his chest or on his shoulder. But you could carry something with the back of your hand, with your foot, with your elbow, or in your ear, your hair, or in the hem of your shirt, or in your shoe or sandal.
- On the Sabbath it was forbidden to tie a knot – except, a woman could tie a knot in her girdle. So, if a bucket of water had to be raised from a well, you could not tie a rope to the bucket, but a woman could tie her girdle to the bucket – and raise it from the well.

Luke 6:1-2

1 Now it happened that He was passing through some grainfields on a Sabbath; and His disciples were picking the heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands, and eating the grain.

2 But some of the Pharisees said, “Why do you do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?”

Luke 6:6-11

6 On another Sabbath He entered the synagogue and was teaching; and there was a man there whose right hand was withered.

7 The scribes and the Pharisees were watching Him closely to see if He healed on the Sabbath, so that they might find reason to accuse Him.

8 But He knew what they were thinking, and He said to the man with the withered hand, “Get up and come forward!” And he got up and came forward.

9 And Jesus said to them, “I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to destroy it?”

10 After looking around at them all, He said to him, “Stretch out your hand!” And he did so; and his hand was restored.

11 But they themselves were filled with rage, and discussed together what they might do to Jesus

John 5:9-10, 16, 18

9 Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk. Now it was the Sabbath on that day.

10 So the Jews were saying to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not permissible for you to carry your pallet."

16 For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.

18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

John 9:14, 18

14 Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes.

18 The Jews then did not believe it of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight,



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5th "Woe": You are complete phonies by building tombs of those who your fathers killed.

- They are pretenders. They want people to think that they are not like their ancestors that killed the OT prophets (Neh. 9:26; Jer. 2:30.)
- "We are better. Look what we are doing."

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- Follow the line of reasoning Jesus is exposing here –
 1. Your fathers killed the prophets.
 2. You're restoring the tombs of the prophets.
 3. You are therefore looking good on the outside by building the prophets tombs, but on the inside you have the same wicked hearts as your fathers.
 4. You do not condemn them.
 5. You are plotting to kill the greatest of all prophets.
- **Note:** "The acorn does not fall far from the tree."

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- God, in His wisdom, knew if He sent others they would be killed and/or persecuted.

“prophets and apostles” were leaders in the first century church.

- They killed John the Baptist, Jesus, Stephen, James. Peter, and the other apostles.
- “You are no different from your fathers.”
- It is hypocrisy to think otherwise.

“When the article of justification is lost, nothing remains except error, hypocrisy, godlessness, and idolatry.”

- Martin Luther

“Have you ever wondered what a church full of Pharisees would be like?

1. They would all attend every service.
2. They would all tithe.
3. They would all work in the church.
4. They would all go to hell.”

- Adrian Roger

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- So this has all been piling up since the beginning of time and it is the first century Jews that are going to be charged with it.
- The Jews are responsible for all of the past generations and what they did because they did not condemn it. They are being charged with the murders of all of the prophets. They had the knowledge of what happened in the past and their wicked hearts are approving it all over again by plotting to kill Jesus.

Rom 9:3-5

3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh,

4 who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises,

5 whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all,

- They will therefore incur a greater judgment.

Matt 23:37-39

37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.

38 "Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

39 "For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"

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- The blood-shedding extends from A – Z.
- Abel (Gen. 4) to Zechariah (Zech. 1:1; 2 Chron 24:20-22)
- The first century generation will be judged with it all.
- You are responsible for the light given to you.

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6th "Woe": You are keeping people from entering the Kingdom of God.

3 things they have done:

1. You have taken away the key that unlocks the knowledge of the Scriptures which gives us the truth.
 2. It has prevented you from entering.
 3. You keep others from entering.
- That is the danger of religion. It will imprison you and will damn you and others faster than anything else.

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- Jesus leaves the luncheon.

“very hostile” – δεινωσ – vehemently, excessively

- So they turn the heat up.
- Their strategy: Question Jesus closely. Cover a lot of subjects. He is bound to slip up.

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- They will have a plan, a scheme, a plot.
- They will “hunt” (plotting) Him down.
- They want to get Him to say something that will incriminate Him: 1. according to the Law. 2. morally. 3. by blaspheming.
- How is your speech? Could you be caught by someone observing your life?

Luke 6:11

11 But they themselves were filled with rage, and discussed together what they might do to Jesus.

Luke 19:47

47 And He was teaching daily in the temple; but the chief priests and the scribes and the leading men among the people were trying to destroy Him,

Luke 20:19,20

19 The scribes and the chief priests tried to lay hands on Him that very hour, and they feared the people; for they understood that He spoke this parable against them.

20 So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, in order that they might catch Him in some statement, so that they could deliver Him to the rule and the authority of the governor.

Luke 22:2

2 The chief priests and the scribes were seeking how they might put Him to death; for they were afraid of the people.

Application

1. The gospel is offensive. The gospel offends the proud heart of man and requires humility if it is to be received.
2. Is your Christian life marked by complexity because legalism has crept in and turned your life into a bunch of “do’s” and “don’ts?”
3. Do we require of others, things that we don’t even do?
4. Religion is a powerful force in the lives of billions of people. Be prepared with what you would say to those who are imprisoned by it.