



Lesson: Two Hundred nineteen

Series: The King's Rejection

Title: Condemnation of False Teachers, Part 6

Text: Matthew 23:32-36

Date: May 31, 2020

Matthew 23:32–36 “Fill up, then, the measure of the guilt of your fathers. 33 “You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell? 34 “Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, 35 so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36 “Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

Matthew 23:32 “Fill up, then, the measure of the guilt of your fathers.

“fill up” [pleroo] - often used in connection with sin, judgment, and wrath

It's frequently associated with a **“cup.”**

He tells them to go ahead with their evil plans in order to add the last drop of their sin to their cups.

He gave Judas a similar command.

*John 13:27 After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, “What you do, **do quickly.**”*

“guilt”

“the guilt of their fathers”

In perfect righteousness, God can ordain that evil exists, and cause it to _____ in order to bring about His good and holy purposes.

*Acts 4:27–28 “For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever **Your hand and Your purpose PREDESTINED** to occur.*

Man’s wrath ultimately serves God’s _____.

“the measure of the guilt of your fathers”

*Genesis 6:3 Then the Lord said, “**My Spirit shall not strive with man forever**, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.”*

Matthew 23:33 “You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?”

“**serpents**” [ophis] - general words for snakes

“**brood of vipers**”

“brood” - babies or offspring

“vipers” - small poisonous snakes

“**how will you escape the sentence of hell**”

This is not a question but a statement of fact.

“**hell**” [Gehenna]

“**escape**”

34 “Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city,

“Therefore” - on account of this,

It refers back to (33) as a result of them not escaping Hell.

Is God giving them one more chance?

No, because Jesus predicts they will “kill,” “crucify,” “scourge,” and “persecute” the new messengers.

Sending them more messengers at this point is not an act of grace, it’s an act of judgment.

**Sending more truth to those who refuse to repent
is a _____ of God’s holy justice.**

Rejecting the gospel of grace is not benign or harmless.

The gospel of grace, if continually rejected, becomes a message of _____ wrath.

*Romans 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are **storing up wrath for yourself** in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,*

35 so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth,

ANT - “so that upon your heads may come the blood of the righteous.”

HCSB - “so all the righteous blood shed on the earth may be charged to you.”

35b. from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

The murder of Able is the first murder and the murder of Zechariah (2 Chron. 24:20-22) is the last one murdered in the Hebrew Bible.

36 “Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

This was carried out in 70 A.D..

How does the truth of our passage relate to us?

*Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It **will not return to Me empty**, Without **accomplishing** what I desire, And without **succeeding** in the matter for which I sent it.*

*2 Corinthians 2:14 But thanks be to God, who **always** leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the **sweet aroma of the knowledge** of Him in every place.*

*15 For we are a **fragrance** of Christ to God among those who are **being saved** and among those who are **perishing**;*

*16 to the one an **aroma** from **death to death**, to the other an **aroma** from **life to life**. And who is adequate for these things?*

17 For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.

God is glorified when His grace is received and when it is _____.

Discussion Guide

1. Why do you believe that judgment and wrath are topics that are avoided by so many evangelicals?
2. Today we saw that Jesus told the Scribes and the Pharisees to carry out their evil plan. That touches on the doctrine of theodicy. Explore how a righteous God can ordain evil and yet it be a righteous act.
3. I made a statement in the sermon that “Man’s wrath ultimately serves God’s mercy.” What does this mean and why is it so important?
4. There are a number of statements in today’s text that prove the Lord’s Deity. Where are they and which attributes do they reflect?
5. How should it affect our witnessing that we are a sweet aroma to those those who are being saved and to those who are perishing?
6. What did you learn today that you feel will make the most impact in your Christian life?

ANSWERS: advance, mercy, validation, accumulating, rejected