

FRIDAY

“ON HYPOCRISY”

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe . . . and have neglected the weightier matters of the law, justice and mercy and faith; those you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of extortion and rapacity. You blind Pharisee! First cleanse the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.”

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like white-washed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.”

“So you outwardly appear righteous to men, but within you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”

Matthew 23:23-28

(Supplementary Scripture: Psalm 19:7-14)

Prayer: Lord, we know that we are imperfect within, that we often sin, that we often fail Thee . . . but Lord please guard us from pride and self-righteousness, which is true hypocrisy

Lord, give us the wisdom to look within our hearts and to see the uncleanness there which would grieve or sadden Thee; make us always more concerned with our heart and soul than in the outward appearance, for if our heart is right, then that on the outside will shine with Thy spirit and love. Stay with us, we pray, through each hour. AMEN

SATURDAY

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; . . . no one comes to the Father, but by me.”

John 14:1-12; II John 5:9-14

How often have you heard people insist that there are many ways to God? That each religion is merely another “footpath” to Him . . .

In this Scripture, we see that our Lord decisively refutes this illusion. “No one comes to the *Father* but by me.”

Yet notice how He uses the word “Father,” not merely “God.” It is probably true that people do experience an awareness of God, that they pray to Him, that they worship Him without being Christians. But — from what Jesus says — they can never know Him in that unique relationship as child-to-Father but only as subject-to-Lord: there is not that deep assurance of acceptance that comes only through total forgiveness of a father.

Before Christ came, for hundreds of years, the Hebrew nation worshiped Jehovah-God, but they never had the fearless, assured confidence that we today know if we believe . . .

So when people say there are many ways to God, be sure to remind them of the words of Christ: while we may approach God, may pray to Him, may search for Him — no one can ever come in unto Him, know the truth about Him or have eternal life without Christ.

This is not denominational doctrine or rule. These are the words of Christ.

Prayer: Lord, it is easy to forget that no unclean thing can stand before Thee. And it is only through Your Son our Lord that we are made perfect enough to come into Thee. May we never lose sight of this, God. AMEN

Daily Family Devotions

The thought begins in the Bible verse;
please take the time to read it first.

MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021

“WORDS FROM THE MASTER HIMSELF”

“You have heard it was said to the men of old, ‘You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.’

“But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be liable to the hell of fire.

“So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift . . .”

Matthew 5:21-24

(Supplementary Scripture: Psalm 103)

Prayer: Lord, we forget how piercing and perceptive Your words to us can be. Just as people so long ago resisted them, so we ourselves find it hard to follow Thy perfect kind of love in all things. Lord, how often we try to come to the time of prayer knowing that we have hurt someone or in some way offended them needlessly and we wonder why the peace of Thy forgiveness does not come.

So often we think only of Thy mercy and compassion, forgetting that to follow Thee, we need also obedience, strength, honesty and courage to do as Thou wouldst have us do.

Lord, we know that the Christian walk is one of wholehearted commitment to Thy way. Help us to follow. AMEN

For information regarding these devotions, contact:
Daily Family Devotions

Tel: (818) 457-1798 • info@dailyfamilydevotions.org

TUESDAY

“Again you have heard that it was said to the men of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’

“But I say to you. Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is His footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

“And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

“Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

Matthew 5:33-37

(Supplementary Scripture: Ex. 20:7; James 3:3-12)

Prayer: Dear Lord, we so often betray our imperfections by the words we speak. How seldom we think before we speak and how often our witness is marred by an angry word, or hasty remark.

Lord, please help us to be aware of how revealing the speech of each of us can be, and as Christians who really do love Thee and who sincerely desire to be the best we can for Thee, may we begin today to guard our lips, our thoughts, our reactions — realizing that what comes out of us is a direct indication of that which is with- in us.

Lord, we would be channels through which men can catch a glimpse of Thy power and compassion, purity and way of life.

And as we grow in the knowledge of Thee, may our speech truly witness that we are followers of The Master. We pray this in Thy name. AMEN

WEDNESDAY

“ . . . how can one enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.

“He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters.”

“Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

“And whoever says a word against the Son of man will be forgiven:

“But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”

Matthew 12:29-32

(Supplementary Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-7) How many times have you heard people respect Christ as a fine human being — but not God in the flesh?

How often have you heard Him quoted as a great humanitarian, but not as the supreme Word of God, the ultimate in Truth?

How often have you heard people doubt His Resurrection, His Divinity or His being the truly divine Son of God?

We will be forgiven any sin for which we are truly sorry, but if we persist in our doubt of the power of the Holy Spirit as it works among us today, and as it dwelled so fully in our Lord, then we are in real danger.

Prayer: O God, so often we saunter through life with our doubts arrogantly fluttering before us, as though we can doubt Thy Spirit, as though we can flaunt Thine authority and still be with- in Thy hand. Christ, give us the deep sense of humility we need as we bow before Thy majestic love and power. AMEN

THURSDAY

“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a man, he passes through waterless places seeking rest, but he finds none.

“Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes he finds it empty, swept and put in order.

“Then he goes and brings with him seven other spirits more evil than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first.

“So shall it be also with this evil generation.”

Matthew 12:43-45

(Supplementary Scripture: Psalm 73:13-24)

Today we think that the state of being neutral — *for* nothing, *against* nothing — is the best. We walk the fence or clear our minds of any belief and think we are safe.

But Christ warns us, that even if we should cleanse our hearts of prejudice, greed and selfishness — unless we immediately fill it with God and unless we ask Christ to live in our “clean house,” Satan and his domination will return, and when he returns, we will be filled with more sin and depravity than we knew before. It is not enough to be forgiven by Christ. We must also let Him take our lives — or Satan will.

Prayer: Dear Lord, our souls are so much like vacuums that yearn to be filled. And we ask now that Thou wilt come into our hearts so the evil from which we have been freed will not return again. We ask this in Thy precious name. AMEN