

Lesson 10 - It's Bad, and Jesus is Sad

November 17, 2019

Worship: 10 minutes

DVD:

Points to consider as you think about how to teach this lesson:

This scripture section reveals how Jesus feels about:

- Powerful people exploiting others.
- Proud, haughty people.
- People who hurt others in the name of God.
- People who won't go God's way, and teach others to go the wrong way, too.
- People who try to find ways to tell lies while pretending to tell the truth.
- People who have evil hearts, but look really clean on the outside.

This scripture tells us that we are not to listen to people who don't teach God's way.

This scripture reveals that there will be a day of judgment.

This scripture reveals how sad Jesus is that the Israelites wouldn't let Him love them.

STORY TEACHER:

Telling a "story" from this passage, may be a challenge – but looking at it from the perspective of Jesus' heart to reach all of Israel and seeing the damage from the false teachers and hypocrites from a human perspective culminates in his mournful words at the end: "How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!" That's how he really felt about the sin around him. It was BAD and He was SAD.

A second theme of these verses is that God is far more interested in what is in a person's heart than he is in what he does on the outside. When the heart is bad, then they can talk about God all they want, but they don't do things God's way; they do them to impress others or look good or make others do what they want.

Matthew 23:1-39

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ²“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, ³so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. ⁴They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. ⁵They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, ⁶and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues ⁷and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. ⁸But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. ¹⁰Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. ¹¹The greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹²Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

¹³“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. ¹⁵Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

¹⁶“Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ ¹⁷You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? ¹⁸And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’ ¹⁹You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? ²⁰So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. ²¹And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. ²²And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

²³“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. ²⁴You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

²⁵“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

²⁷“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸So

you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

²⁹“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, ³⁰saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ ³¹Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³²Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. ³³You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? ³⁴Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, ³⁵so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. ³⁶Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

Lament over Jerusalem

³⁷“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁸See, your house is left to you desolate. ³⁹For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

Lessons that can be drawn from this story:

The things that God wants from us, like telling the truth, loving God, and obeying our parents and God, are things that make our lives happy. And it makes Jesus happy when he sees us doing them. But it also makes his heart sad when He sees that people don’t love him – that they don’t want to do right.

There are sad consequences to doing sinful things, and Jesus didn’t pretend there weren’t. Even though he loved the people he was speaking to, they were going to feel pain as a result of their sinful ways.

Jesus died so that those very people he talked to in our story could believe in him STILL and be saved. All of us sin sometimes. All of us, when we place our trust in Jesus’ death and resurrection, are forgiven of those sins and given eternal life.

Small Group Lesson

Small Group Teachers pick and choose activities:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Questions for older children

Give the children a Bible to read from. Ask them to turn to Matthew 23. Choose three good readers to read verses. After reading each one, ask questions about the passage.

- 1) ⁵They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, ⁶and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues ⁷and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others.

Why do people want others to notice them being good? *Pride – it makes them feel special and important.*

If that's not the reason God wants us to "be good" what is the reason God wants us to live for Him? *He wants us to love Him so much, we WANT to do what He loves. AND we trust that doing things His way is what is best for us.*

- 2) ²³"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.

What does it mean to tithe? *A tithe is one tenth of what you get. (One penny out of a dime.) God gave instructions to the Israelites in the law that they were to give a tithe to God – that one tenth of everything they got belonged to God.*

Did Jesus want them to stop giving the tithe to Him? *No.*

What did Jesus think they should do? *Give the tithe, but also be fair (just) and merciful and faithful.*

What does God REALLY want from us? Is it money? *No. He wants our hearts to love him! AND he wants us to treat other people like He would treat them.*

- 3) ³⁷"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

How did Jesus feel about the Jews rejecting Him? *It made Him very sad.*

What did he WANT to do? *"Gather their children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings,"* What did he mean by that?

How could Jesus gather us together under His wings, now? *When we turn to Him and follow Him, He can bless us and hold us close.*

Questions for younger children

What are some rules at your house?

Why do your mom and dad give you rules? *Because they love you and want to keep you safe.*

How does it make your mom and dad feel when you don't obey? Are they happy? *They are sad or angry because we aren't learning to do what's right. Or sometimes they can be scared because we could get hurt.*

How do you think it makes Jesus feel when we sin (do wrong)? *It makes Him sad, because He knows that our lives will be blessed and happy if we learn to walk with Him.*

If we sin or do wrong, what can we do about it? *Just like when you do wrong and your parents scold you, you can say, "I'm sorry. I will try not to do that, again."*

PRAYER:

Encourage the children to say a sentence prayer about something they would like to say to Jesus. You can give them some examples, like: "Thank you for loving me." Or "I want to live for you." Or "Forgive me for sinning, sometimes." Or "Thank you for helping me live for you." Anything they want to say is acceptable. If someone says something unusual, just move on to the next child.

Then, close in a prayer something like this: Heavenly Father, thank you for loving us so much that you would come to earth to live and die for us on the cross. We want to love you and follow you and have you gather us together like a hen gathers her chicks. We want to love you with all of our hearts. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE:

1 Samuel 16:7b

"For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Teach scripture by some sort of repetition.

Also, the one of the art and activity ideas, this week center around this verse, and can be used as you teach verse.

ACTIVITIES:

Tell Me the Verse

Have older children look up today's lesson scripture: Matthew 23:1-39

Create two teams and keep score.

The children are to tell you which verse in the scripture section says what you read.

They must work by themselves and must not speak until called on. Call on the first person with his/her hand up. Remind them that if they say the verse number out loud without being called upon, you will give the point to the other team.

They love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats (6)

For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. (13)

For they preach, but do not practice. (3)

You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel! (24)

For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. (25)

They do all their deeds to be seen by others. (5)

For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. (27)

Heart Hunt

Before class begins, hide some hearts in Bibles around the room. Each heart can have a word from today's Bible verse and children will find their verse hearts IN the Bibles in the designated areas.

If there are enough children, the class can be divided into two teams to HUNT for the hearts. IF they find a heart but already have that word of the verse, then they must put it back in the Bible for the other team to find. Children can help their own team to find all the words and put them in order and see which team can complete AND "SAY" the verse together!

ART:

God Looks at the Heart

Supplies:

Two printed pages of cut-outs

Glue

Scissors

Colored Markers

Plastic

This is a combined art and scripture teaching activity. Using the magnifying pattern printed on card stock, if possible, have children cut out magnifying glasses (front and back) Also cut out the heart and circle. (These can be pre-cut for younger children). Each child will now have two magnifying glasses, a heart and a circle.

Using the circle as a pattern, cut out clear plastic or magnifying plastic, if available, in for the center of the magnifying glass. Glue it or tape it to the inside of one of the magnifying glasses.

Glue magnifying glasses back to back, with plastic between them.

Write: God Looks at my heart on the handle of the magnifying glass.

Color the heart .

As the children work, repeat the memory verse over several times.

See attached "Heart Picture."