

**The Steps of Jesus – 12/10/23**  
**The Animosity Toward Christ**

**TEXT- Matthew 23:28-35**

**INTRO – There are two threads throughout the Bible.**

- There is the godly seed through Abraham, Moses and David in the Old Testament, and through the church in the New Testament.
- There is the evil seed through Cain, Ishmael, and Esau.

There is good and evil today at work today. The evil originates from Satan who is the ruler of this world, and people blindly are led by his influence. Satan's plan is to destroy the godly seed and get people to follow him. Satan would literally bruise His heel through the crucifixion but Jesus crushed his head by His resurrection and eventually will bind Satan in the bottomless pit. The gospels reveal Satan's attempts to destroy Christ.

**I. The Animosity Toward Christ**

**A. It all began in the Garden of Eden**

**Genesis 3:15** *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

**B. Jewish leaders hated Christ.**

In Scripture, we find people who reacted to Jesus with hostility, and chief among these people are the scribes and Pharisees.

- In Luke 20 that the scribes and the chief priests sought to have Jesus arrested.
- In John 5, we are told that they wanted to kill Him, and
- In chapters 8 and 10, they tried to stone Him.

Three reasons why the religious authorities hated Jesus so much.

**A. Jealousy**

Why would they be jealous of the Son of God? Everywhere Jesus went, He attracted huge crowds. He was profoundly popular among the people, whereas the rulers of the Jews laid heavy burdens on their people.

The people loved Jesus, and they received Him gladly, but what they felt from the Pharisees was judgment. They were envious of His popularity.

**B. Revelation**

The second reason why they hated Him was because He exposed them. Before Jesus came, it was the Pharisees as well as the Sadducees and scribes, who set the moral standard for the community. They sat in the highest places in the synagogue. They were the ones who were most honored and celebrated for their virtue, but their virtue, was a pretense. It was external.

**Mt. 23:27** *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.*

**Matthew 23:25-26** *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. 26 Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.*

**Matthew 23:28-35** *Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.*

**C. Fear**

**The third reason they hated Him is because they were afraid—**

They feared that Jesus somehow would lead an insurrection, cause another uprising, and so they sought to remove Him before He caused them trouble.

**The world hates the godly seed.**

**John 7:7** *The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.*

**John 15:18-19** *If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*

**1 John 3:12-13** *Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.*

**II. The Accusations Against Christ**

**A. The Jewish leaders**

**Matthew 26:59-60** *Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; 60 But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,*

**Matthew 27:41-43** *Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, 42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. 43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.*

**B. The Jewish population**

**Matthew 27:39-40** *And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.*

**C. The Thieves on the cross**

**Matthew 27:44** *The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.*

**D. Pilate the governor of Judea**

**Luke 23:4** *Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man.*

**John 19:4-6** Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him. 5 Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man! 6 When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him.

**Matthew 27:24** When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

#### **E. Jesus was falsely accused**

**Luke 23:47** Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.

**Matthew 27:54** Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

**Hebrews 4:15** For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

### **III. The Crucifixion of Christ**

#### **A. The prophecy of His crucifixion**

**Isaiah 53:4-** Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

#### **B. The Crucifixion**

**Matthew 27:22-23** Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. 23 And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

#### **C. We are crucified with Christ**

**1 Corinthians 1:23-24** But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

**Galatians 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

### **IV. The Resurrection of Christ**

#### **A. The necessity of the resurrection**

**1 Corinthians 15:12-14** Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

#### **B. Our identification with His resurrection**

**Romans 6:4-5** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

**CONCL – We serve a living Savior.**