

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, September 24, 2023

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 105. “Blind Guides” – Matthew 23:13-22

Pastor Phillip M Way

Intro: Jesus condemns the religious leaders as false teachers, ravenous wolves, and hypocrites. In the first 4 woes He warns about the judgment they will bear for their self-deceit and wickedness.

- I. Woe to You, Scribes and Pharisees, Hypocrites
 - A. Woe
 1. Disaster, calamity
 2. A cry of extreme displeasure or for retributive pain
 - B. Hypocrites
 1. Play actors, pretenders, one who claims to be what one is not
 2. Focus on externals, not essentials of the life God desires
- II. Woe to the Self-Deceived – vs. 13
 - A. Shutting Up the Kingdom of Heaven – Salvation – Quote 1
 - B. You Don't Enter and Actively Work to Prevent Others – Matt. 5:20; Rom. 2:17-24
 - C. The Cure for Self-Deception – Prov. 3:5-6
- III. Woe to the Self-Serving – vs. 14
 - A. Devour Widows Houses – Mark 12:40-44
 - B. Pretend through Long Prayers to Be Righteous – Matt. 6:7 – Quotes 2, 3
 - C. Greater Condemnation
 - D. The Cure for Self-Serving – Matt. 4:10; Gal. 5:13
- IV. Woe to the Self-Promoting – vs. 1
 - A. Zealous to Win One Convert
 1. Proselytes of Righteousness – a Gentile who converted to Judaism
 2. True Proselytes – God-fearing, devout – Acts 6:5; 10:2, 7; 13:43
 - B. Twice as Much a Son of Hell
 1. A False Religion based on Faked Righteousness
 2. Won from One False Religion to Another – cults – Quote 4
 - C. The Cure for Self-Promotion – Phil. 4:10-13; 1 Cor. 9:27; Rom. 7:18
- V. Woe to the Self-Justifying – vs. 16-22
 - A. Blind Guides, Blind Fools – no spiritual perception, ignorant of truth – Matt. 15:14
 - B. Silly Oaths that Pervert Truth – Quote 5 – 2 Tim. 3:7
 1. An argument for an oath that can be broken
 - a. Swear by the Temple/Altar and you don't have to perform it
 - b. Swear by the gold in the Temple/gift on the altar and you do have to perform it
 - c. Never mind that the gold is holy because it is in the Temple and the gift (sacrifice) is sanctified by the altar
 2. To swear by the Temple or the Altar is to invoke God and His Name
 - C. Keeping Your Vows – Deut. 23:21-22; Eccl. 5:4-5; Acts 5:1-11
 - D. Jesus on Oaths – Matt. 5:33-37
 - E. The Cure for Self-Justification – 2 Cor. 13:5; Gal. 6:3-4
- VI. Conclusion: Deny Yourself – Luke 9:23-26

Quotes

1. "They set up stumbling stones instead of stepping stones." – CH Spurgeon
2. "Prayer does change things, but the most important thing it changes is us." – RC Sproul
3. "In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart." – John Bunyan
4. "False religion may feed their bodies, stimulate their minds, and calm their emotions, but it will inevitably damn their souls. It may raise their moral standards, increase their worldly success, overcome practical problems, and improve their outward relationships, but it will not remove their sin or improve their relationship with God. It may promise heaven, but can only deliver hell." – John MacArthur
5. "There are none so stupid as those who will not learn, and none so blind as those who will not see." – CH Spurgeon

Cross References

Matthew 5:20

20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Romans 2:17-24

17 Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God, 18 and know His will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law, 19 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law. 21 You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? 22 You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? 24 For "the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," as it is written.

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Mark 12:40-44

40 who devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation." 41 Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. 42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. 43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; 44 for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

Matthew 6:7

7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

Matthew 4:10

10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

Galatians 5:13

13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Acts 6:5

5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch,

Acts 10:2, 7

2 a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.

7 And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually.

Acts 13:43

43 Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

Philippians 4:10-13

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

1 Corinthians 9:27

27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Romans 7:18

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

Matthew 15:14

14 Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”

2 Timothy 3:7

7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Deuteronomy 23:21-22

21 “When you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay to pay it; for the Lord your God will surely require it of you, and it would be sin to you. 22 But if you abstain from vowing, it shall not be sin to you.

Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed—5 Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.

Acts 5:1-11

5 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. 2 And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles’ feet. 3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? 4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.” 5 Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. 6 And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. 7 Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

8 And Peter answered her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?” She said, “Yes, for so much.” 9 Then Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.” 10 Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. 11 So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

Matthew 5:33-37

33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ 34 But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; 35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

2 Corinthians 13:5

5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

Galatians 6:3-4

3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

Luke 9:23-26

23 Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. 25 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? 26 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels.