



JESUS: KING AND JUDGE



Gospel Life Communities Study Guide

Matthew 23:1-36

Words of Woe

Welcome to the Fall 2024 GLC Season! We hope the Lord is blessing, challenging, and encouraging you through this sermon series thus far. This season, we will be in Matthew chapters 22-25, which covers Jesus's interactions with his disciples and the religious leaders of the day, in the last week before his arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

Our weekly studies will have four parts, following the four categories that we've set for GLC's, and then end with prayer.

exploring

We will explore God's word together, looking at the actual words of the passage each week.

digging

We will dig deeper into the word, discussing the context and meaning of the passage.

growing

We will discuss how the passage is applied to our own lives.

going

We will discuss how the passage informs, challenges, and encourages our gospel witness.



exploring

1. Read Matthew 23:1-36 as a group. Try to read it with expression and passion (as Frank did on Sunday).
2. What two words stand out because of their repeated use in Jesus' address to the teachers of the laws and Pharisees?
3. Give a brief definition of each of these 2 words.

digging

4. Try to put yourself in the shoes of those hearing/receiving the discourse:
 - a. The Pharisees
 - b. The disciples
 - c. Those who would first read Matthew's gospel about 30 years later.
5. Comment on how it might be received by each of these groups. What feelings might be stirred?
6. Jesus expressed the concept of verse 11 – “The greatest among you will be your servant” various times in his ministry. Compare vs. 11-12 with Luke 22:24
7. Pastor Paul said, “that one phrase accomplished three things:
 - a. it was an indictment,
 - b. it was a command,
 - c. and it was a prophecy.”.... Discuss

growing

8. Pastor Paul addressed the first 6 woes in pairs:
- a. The first pair is about people entering the kingdom. How is the way we win people important?
 - b. The second pair addresses an over-detailed, hair-splitting view of the law. What might be lost with this microscopic view? (compare with Micah 6:8)
 - c. The third pair speaks to hypocritical display. Do we ever show ourselves clean and beautiful on the outside when what is on the inside doesn't match up? Share.
 - d. The last woe addresses their attempts to disassociate themselves from their fathers' sins. What might be the implications of Jesus' use of the phrase "you brood of vipers"? (see Matt. 3:7) How might we be guilty of this?
9. The Pharisees were concerned about "looking great". Jesus gave us the key to being great. In what areas of my life am I more concerned about outward appearances than humbly serving others?

going

10. Consider/contrast how the Pharisees focus on "looking great" and Jesus's concept of greatness. How does this impact our witness for the Gospel?
(“What you win them with, you win them to.”)

Pray “Kingdom Prayers”

Kingdom prayers are prayers that don't only focus on the immediate need, but also on God's glory.

For example, if someone has a sore knee instead of just praying “God, please heal Betty's knee”, you would pray something like “God, please heal Betty's knee so that she can continue to serve you and your people; so that she can continue attend worship services pain free and give you glory for your healing hand.”

See the difference?

Some ideas of what to pray for:

- Each other's needs/requests
- King Road's ministries, missionaries, members, and pastors
- Opportunities to share the gospel