

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#82 – “Condemnation and Correction” – Luke 20:45 – 21:4

I. Introduction

- A. Jesus has already had numerous confrontations with the religious Jewish hierarchy.
 - 1. Examples – see Luke Chapter 20.
- B. There were numerous confrontations with key power groups.
 - 1. Scribes, Sadducees, Pharisees, Herodians
- C. Today’s Text – Luke 20:45-21:4

II. Exposition

- A. Luke 20:45-47
 - 1. Spoken to the disciples, but an open rebuke for all to hear.
 - 2. “Beware of the Scribes”
 - a. Connection between Scribes and Pharisees
 - b. The Mishnah
 - c. Matthew’s testimony – Matthew 23:27
 - d. Poor leadership of the people.
 - 3. “Long robes”
 - 1. Sign for men of leisure
 - 2. Also may indicate tassels at the bottom of the robe used to remind the teachers of the requirements of the Law.
 - a. See Numbers 15:38-40
 - 4. “Chief seats” – elevated benches
 - a. Edershiem
 - b. Luke 14:7-11
 - 5. “Devour widow’s houses”
 - a. To leave nothing
 - b. Contrary to the Old Testament
 - 1. Deut. 10:18; Ps. 68:5; Jer. 22:3
 - 6. “Long prayers”

a. Condemned by Jesus – Matthew 6:5-6

7. “Greater Condemnation”

a. Greater punishment to all who mislead people by twisting God’s Word.

B. Luke 21:1-4

- 1. A commendation of sorts
- 2. Note positioning of the account which falls between Jesus’ statement of judgement on the leaders and the temple.
- 3. “Gifts into the treasury”
 - a. Located in the court of women
- 4. Small copper coins – LEPTA
- 5. Why is this story of the widow’s generous gift located here?
 - a. What was Luke’s intent?
- 6. Note the term “poor”
 - a. Verse 2 – PENICHROS – poor and needy but not destitute
 - b. Verse 3 – PTOCHOS – absolutely destitute
 - c. Luke includes this account to show the result of righteousness through works. This is how the Scribes stole from widows and others. Give to get.

III. Points for Reflection

- A. Our identity is in Christ Alone
 - 1. I Sam. 16:7
- B. Greater condemnation of the Scribes reminds us that God’s judgment is always proportionate to the sin committed.
 - 1. Matt. 11:22,24; Rom. 2:5-8; Rev. 22:11-12
- C. The Scribes were guilty of hypocrisy.
- D. Distortion of the Word of God is a chief evidence of Satan’s wickedness.
 - 1. Luke 19:48b; Matt. 4:4; Gen. 3:1,4
- E. Why is it that the more people make, the less proportionately they give?
 - 1. Luke 21:4