

Matthew Chapter 23

V: 1 This comes right after Jesus' confrontations with the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Herodians, from Ch. 22, they are all probably standing nearby when they are re-addressed again in verse 13.

- Jesus turns from the religious and the self righteous and addresses those who would listen, those who were open to hearing the truth.

Revelation 2:7 "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches;...."

- This is Jesus' last public message, it takes place in the temple, **Matthew 24:1**.
- Jesus is speaking specifically to the crowd and to His disciples.

V: 2 The scribes as a group started at the time of Ezra, around 400 BC.

1. The Scribes presented the people with the newly found scrolls of the Word of God.
2. The Scribes were given the task of maintaining, copying, studying, and presenting God's word to the people.
3. The scribes also defined what was meant by many of the passages as it was being translated from Hebrew to Aramaic.

Nehemiah 8:8 "So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading."

- The Pharisees were the conservatives who tried to put into practice every aspect of the Law, while the Sadducees were the liberals who spiritualized or ignored parts they disagreed with.

"sit in" literal translation is "**seated themselves**", as in they assumed that position. In those days teachers sat and students stood.

James 3:1 "My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation."

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep...."

Matthew 15:14 "Let them alone. They be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

Luke 12:48 "... For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required;..."

V: 3 **Submit:** Whatever they bid you to do from the law, do it, the law is right. But don't follow their example, it's an outward show.

Micah 6:8 "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."

Submission:

Hebrews 13:17 "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

Romans 13:1-7 ¹Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. ²Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. ³For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: ⁴For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. ⁵Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. ⁶For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. ⁷Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour."

1 Peter 2:12-17 ¹²Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. ¹³Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king as supreme; ¹⁴Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. ¹⁵For so is the will of God, that with well-doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: ¹⁶As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. ¹⁷Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king."

Example: Noah

Genesis 6:9 "This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God."

Genesis 6:22 "Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did."

Genesis 7:5 "And Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him."

- **Result:** God said he was a just man, he walked with God, his family was saved.

V: 3b (cont).

“for they say, and do not do”, = HYPOCRACY!

James 1:22 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

- Jesus is our example. He said “follow me”, not follow my servants.

1 Corinthians 11:1 “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 11:1 “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.” NKJV

Romans 2:17-29 An admonition by Paul for teachers to live what they preach, and that walking in the truth is an issue of the heart.

Romans 15:18 “For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought / accomplished by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed.”

- Basically Jesus is accusing the Scribes and Pharisees of enforcing the Law upon others, but they aren't obedient to it themselves.
- In so doing, they create heavy burdens for others.

V:4 They bind “Heavy burdens” – religion is heavy: the opposite of what Jesus has in mind.

Matthew 11:28-30 ²⁸Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

- The religious leaders had a false concept of ministry, handing down laws, adding to the burden. They were much harder on others than on themselves.
- Instead of making it easier for people to be right with God, they were making it harder – the opposite of what Jesus was doing.

V:5 The next charge that Jesus levels against them is that they do their works to be pleasing in the sight of man, striving for position, or recognition from man as opposed to wanting to be pleasing to God.

Matthew 6:1 “Take heed that ye do not our alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.”

- Jesus said basically the same thing about prayer, fasting, and giving.

Phylacteries: **Deuteronomy 6:8**, interpreting the binding the word of God on their heads as frontlets, and on their hands.

Borders / tassels: **Numbers 15:38-40**,

- They made each of these bigger, more noticeable than they needed to be, to be seen by men. Working like leaven / pride, puffing up, making bigger.
- Pride puffs up (like leaven), it broadens and enlarges.

V: 6 They strive with other men to have the best, to be seen by others, concerned about status amongst men, not concerned about their status with God.

- They are bringing honor and glory to themselves instead of giving glory to God.

V: 7 “Rabbi”, pronounced “Rabee”, literally means “teacher” or “master”, a prized title. Similar to the works and titles of the Nicolaitans in **Revelation 2:6; 15**.

- Their focus was on themselves, worldly and material things, not on God, not looking to Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith. **Hebrews 12:2**.

V: 8 Don’t be called “Master” or “Rabbi”.

James 3:1 “My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”

- We have one Master, one Lord, Christ – we are all brethren, all of an equal standing.
- In Matthews Gospel, Jesus is only called “Rabbi” by outsiders, and by Judas after he betrays Jesus, never by His disciples.

V: 9 “**Father**” literally means “life giver”. To call a man “father” in spiritual matters is to put him in the place of God as the one who gives spiritual life. This would be blasphemy. God, our Father in Heaven gives us spiritual life, not man.

- We have spiritual leaders, but Jesus is our only spiritual authority.
- Jesus teaches that true spiritual leaders should avoid elevated titles, and accept lowly tasks.

James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

V: 10 Neither be called “Master” (G 2519). kathegetes, kath-ayg-ay-tace'; the Greek equivalent to “rabbi”.

V: 11-12 Jesus repeats the lesson on humility and service to others knowing our propensity to forget this important lesson and our desire to be served rather than serve others. God’s economy, which is quite different than ours.

Matthew 20:25-28 ²⁵But Jesus called them unto Him, and said, ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. ²⁶But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; ²⁷And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servants: ²⁸Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

1 Peter 5: 5-6 ⁵Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. ⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time:”

John 13:4-7 (washing of disciple’s feet)

Read: Matthew 5:1-16 Beatitudes

V: 13 **1st Woe:**

- Jesus started his public ministry with 8 beatitudes in **Matthew ch. 5**. “Blessed are the...”, or “how happy are they who...” Now Jesus ends his public ministry with 8 “woes”.
- “Hypocrites!” – “child of hell” – “blind guides” – “blind fools” – “blind men” – “blind Pharisee” – “snakes” – “brood of vipers”.
- This was certainly a rebuke to the religious leaders, but not in an angry or vengeful way. The word “woe” is a mournful, sorrowful, lamentation to a condition. Jesus loves these religious leaders and is telling them the truth in love.

Ephesians 4:15 “But speaking the truth in love,....”

- There is a definite relationship, or contrast between the 8 woes and the 8 beatitudes. They are each bookends to his ministry so to speak.
- They are leading the children astray, causing them to stumble.

Jeremiah 50:6 “My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray,…”

Ezekiel 34:2 “Son of man, prophecy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds; woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?”

Jeremiah 23:1-4 “¹Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture saith the Lord! ²Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; ye have scattered My flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doing, saith the Lord. ³And I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. ⁴And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord.”

- Jesus instructing Peter after His resurrection:

John 21:15 “So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these? He saith unto Him, yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, feed My lambs.”

Parallel passage:

Luke 11:52 “Woe unto you, lawyers! (scribes) for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: (the word of God) ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.”

Matthew 18:6 “But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”

Hypocrites! = hupocrites = actors = two faces = not truthful.

Beatitude / parallel

Matthew 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit; for there is the kingdom of heaven.”

- Here Jesus is dealing with the proud in spirit vs: the poor in spirit:

Laodicean church; self sufficient, proud:

Revelation 3:17-18 “¹⁷Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: ¹⁸I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye-salve, that thou mayest see.”

V: 14 (2nd woe) Newer translations (Alexandrian text, NIV, NASB) omits this verse ☹, but we find it again in the parallel accounts of the same teaching, in all the translations, in **Mark 12:40** and **Luke 20:47**.

- The religious leaders take advantage of poor widows instead of helping them as they have been called to do.

- “Devouring”: a characteristic of the enemy:

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”

- For a “pretense”, for a show, for an ulterior motive, they make long prayers.
- Heartless and cruel in their business dealings, then speaking with long drawn out “heartfelt” prayers. Not! ☹

Proverbs 28:9 “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.”

Beatitude / parallel:

Matthew 5:4

“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.”

- Jesus is dealing with those who should mourn over their own condition instead of taking advantage of the mournful, like the poor widows.

V: 15 3rd woe: They would go to the ends of the earth for one convert.

- Proselytes, new converts to Judaism were normally even more zealous for the law than those that helped convert them, two fold more deceived.

Romans 10:2-3 “²For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. ³For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”

Beatitude / parallel:

Matthew 5:5 “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.”

- Jesus is speaking to the self-righteous, who convert others to their self-righteousness – but the blessing is in meekness and humility.

V: 16-21 A “debtor” is one who is “bound”, like slavery, his oath is binding. How true that is today.

- Somehow giving more value to the gold or the offering than to the Temple or the altar – both of which are Holy.
- He is guilty if he fails to carry out his oath – if it is by the gold or the offering.
- The religious leaders valued the gold and the gifts, not God’s righteousness. Their emphasis and focus was on the material, not the spiritual.
- The Pharisees had been teaching that if you swore by the temple or the altar you were not bound to keep your oath; you could lie, kind of like crossing your fingers, looking for a loop hole.

Matthew 6:21 “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

- The opposite is true also, when you see what a man treasures, you can see where his heart is.

Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Beatitude / parallel:

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

- The Pharisees & Scribes were blinded by gold, they hungered after riches instead of righteousness.

V: 22 Apparently they didn’t get the drift on making oaths, Jesus taught us:

Matthew 5:33-37 ³³“Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: ³⁴But I say unto you, swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God’s throne: ³⁵Nor by the earth; for it is His footstool; neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. ³⁷But let your communication be, yea, yea; nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.”

Proverbs 12:17 “He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.”

V: 23 They worry about such little things as tithing from their spice garden, but leave out the most important matters.

- Jesus has rebuked and instructed them twice before in these matters.

Matthew 9:13 “But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Matthew 12:7 “But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.”

- **Judgment:** - justice, doing justly, doing the right thing.

Acts 10:34 “God is no respecter of persons.”

Isaiah 1:17 “Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.”

Mercy: To be compassionate or showing kindly forbearance, lenience towards an offender.

Hosea 6:6 “For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.”

Micah 6:8 “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

Faith:

Hebrews 11:1 “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

- Not leaving the other matters, the other parts of the law undone.

James 2:10 “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”

V: 24 “Straining out a gnat, swallowing a camel”

- Majoring greatly in the minors. One of their traditions was to strain their drinks, having them poured through a cloth filter to remove the little bugs that sometimes got into the jugs.
- Walking through the market places, they would gag out a gnat so as not to swallow an insect that still had the blood in it.

We all need to be careful to keep the main thing the main thing!

Beatitude / parallel:

Matthew 5:7 “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.”

- Jesus is looking for them to show mercy for in that they shall obtain mercy. Thus far He hasn't seen it.

V: 25-26 The real issues: the inside vs: the outside.

Psalm 51:6 “Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.”

- Herein lies the problem: we're told to do something that we really can't do, that is cleanse the inside of the cup.
- We can recognize our condition, we can come to that place of acknowledging our sin – but to cleanse ourselves from it is impossible for us to do.
- We need Him to be the one that does the cleaning:

Psalm 51:4 “Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

- The inside has to be cleaned out first, then it works its way out – which is exactly how God works in our lives. He starts with a new heart:

Ezekiel 36:26-27 ²⁶“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do them.”

V: 27-28 Re-stating the same important lesson, God looks at the inside.

2 Timothy 3:5 “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

Acts 23:3 “Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law?”

V: 28 Our / their iniquity and sins are what have separated us from God.

Isaiah 59:1-2 “¹Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ²But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

Beatitude / parallel:

Matthew 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”

- Jesus is telling the Pharisees and the scribes that their hearts are full of iniquity as opposed to being pure.

- Sometimes we get glimpses of our heart that no one else gets to see, and we’re glad that they don’t.
- There are other times when other people get glimpses of our heart that we don’t or can’t see as well:

Matthew 12:33-34 “³³Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. ³⁴O generation of vipers, how can he being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.”

Psalms 139:23-24 “²³Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

V: 29-31 The religious leaders decorate the tombs and honor the prophets that their fathers killed. They made war with and shed the blood of God’s servants.

- We seem to like true men of God much better after they are dead!

Beatitude / parallel:

Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”

- The religious leaders were shedding blood, making war instead of making peace.

Romans 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”

V: 31 This is not a generational sin issue:

Ezekiel 18:20 “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son; the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”

- It’s not just they are the descendant of those who killed the prophets, but they are doing the same thing that their fathers did.

Acts 7:51-52 ⁵¹Ye stiff-necked and un-circumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. ⁵²Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? And they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:”

1 Thessalonians 2:15 “Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:”

Matthew 27:24-25 ²⁴When 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. ²⁵Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.”

V: 32 “Fill ye up...” – “Finish off the measure, complete the measure...”

Genesis 15:16 “For the iniquities of the Amorites is not yet full”

- God sets limits, He has a time table – nothing is arbitrary. Just like the “fullness of the Gentiles...”
- The religious leaders of the day were just about at their limit, and they would soon bring chastening upon themselves.
- In 70 AD the Roman army destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple, dispersed and enslaved the Jewish people throughout the world.

V: 33 Serpents / vipers: Genesis 3:14

- How can you escape hell (Gehenna)? Easy:

John 1:12 “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

- Obviously the assumption in Jesus’ question is that they would reject Jesus:

John 3:17-18 “¹⁷For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

V: 34 “*I send*”, expressing His deity, “I God”

- This prophecy was fulfilled in the book of **Acts**, persecution, and martyrdom, the forced spreading of the Gospel.

Beatitude / parallel:

Matthew 5:10 “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

- Woe unto the persecutors as opposed to the blessing to those who are persecuted for righteousness sake.

V: 35 Blood – Leviticus has shown us that God is very mindful of the blood, because the life is in the blood.

Psalms 116:15 “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”

- They will be accountable for all those that have been killed un-righteously from the first murder of Abel, to the last prophet killed, Zacharias.

Describing the murder of Zacharias by evil King Joash.

2 Chronicles 24:20-22 “²⁰And the spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, thus saith God, why transgress ye the commandments of the Lord, that ye cannot prosper? Because ye have forsaken the Lord, he hath also forsaken

you. ²¹And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the Lord. ²²Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, the Lord look upon it, and require it.”

Note: Jesus said “son of Barachias, 2 Chronicles records that he is the son of Jehoiada. The grandson is also the son of the same man in Jewish culture, or possibly copyist error.

- They killed the prophets from **A** to **Z**, you can bet He remembers all the ones in between.

V: 36 This generation will be held responsible, and they were, and we will.

V: 37 Jerusalem = Israel.

- Moses used a similar analogy in **Deuteronomy 32:11**.

Deuteronomy 32:9-12 ⁹For the Lord's portion is His people; Jacob is the lot of His inheritance. ¹⁰He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; He led him about, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye. ¹¹As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: ¹²So the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

- They refused:

John 1:11 “He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”

John 5:40 “And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.”

V: 38 Their “house” was left desolate in 70 AD by Emperor Vespasian and his son the Roman general Titus.

Galatians 6:7-8 ⁷Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

V: 39 Quoting **Psalms 118:26**.

Psalms 118:26 “Blessed be He that cometh in the name of the Lord: we have blessed you out of the house of the Lord.”

- You won't see Him again until:

Zechariah 14:4 “And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.”

Revelation 19:11-16 “¹¹And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. ¹²His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. ¹³And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

- This was a shock to the religious leaders to be sure, but it was also a shock to the disciples who expected an immediate establishment of His kingdom on Earth now as opposed to a future time.
- This prophetic statement prompts the disciples to ask questions about the coming kingdom in Ch. 24.