
BIBLE TALK

This week we continue the question: **Are Pharisees still alive today?** (Part 2).

Last week we discussed the two major problems of the Pharisees: (1) They disobeyed God and (2) They elevated their opinions to the level of divine status.

HATED CORRECTION

3) The Pharisees hated correction.

In other words, they didn't appreciate it when someone preached to them and pointed out their faults! They viewed the Lord as their enemy because He showed them where they were wrong and where they needed to correct their lives.

Q: Do you know of people today like this? They despise anyone who preaches to them. They despise anyone who would point out something that needs correction.

If you know someone like that, then you know a Pharisee!

This is how they were. They despised preaching that was directed toward them.

Matthew 21:45-46

⁴⁵ Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them.

⁴⁶ But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet.

Anytime anyone preached to them and suggested that they could improve themselves, they got mad and they hated that person.

- They hated John's preaching and they hated his baptism and refused to be baptized (Lk 7:30).
- They hated Jesus preaching and began to "assail Him vehemently" (Lk 11:53).
- They hated the blind man who preached to them (Jn 9).

These Pharisees were hurting and hating only themselves when they hated the preacher.

NOTE: You may not like the way a preacher says something, but if it's the truth you ought to be thankful he said it, because only truth can set you free (Jn. 8:32).

Proverbs 1:7

⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 15:5

⁵ A fool despises his father's instruction,
But he who receives correction is prudent.

Proverbs 15:32

³² He who disdains instruction despises his own soul,
But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.

You're hurting only yourself when you refuse rebuke and correction.

Galatians 4:16

¹⁶ Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

The Pharisees would answer this question, "Yes! You do become our enemy when you tell us the truth!" They didn't want truth. They wanted: comfort, praise, consolation, things that made them feel good about themselves.

Revelation 3:19

¹⁹ "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

Q: Do you know people that don't like correction?

If you do, you know a Pharisee.

THEY TRUSTED IN THEIR WORKS

4) The Pharisees trusted in their works to save them.

When the Bible says these men trusted in their works, it does not mean that they obeyed God's commandments and then trusted that they would be saved.

REMEMBER: We demonstrated last week that they did not obey God's law.

Trusting in works means that they felt they really weren't that bad. They knew they had committed sin, but they felt that their good qualities outweighed their bad qualities.

They perhaps imagined that on Judgment Day God would put their bad deeds on one side of the scales and their good deeds on the other side and their good deeds would outweigh the bad.

In this way they were trusting in their works to save them.

I think we see this attitude in the Pharisee who went to the temple to pray:

Luke 18:9-14

⁹ Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

¹¹ "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men; extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.

¹² 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

¹³ "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'

¹⁴ "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

This Pharisee was trusting in his own abilities and good works to save him. He felt his good deeds outweighed his bad.

The tax collector was trusting in God for salvation. He knew that if his bad deeds were weighed in one scale and his good deeds were weighed in the other scale he would lose. He had nothing left to do but to trust in God and seek for mercy.

Q: Have you ever met anyone who has not obeyed God and yet they think their good deeds will outweigh their bad deeds?

If you know someone like that, then you know a Pharisee!

When people today, who have not been baptized as the NT directs, think their good deeds will outweigh their bad deeds on Judgment Day, they are trusting in their works to save them.

If it were possible for men to be saved without obedience to the gospel, then Jesus died in vain!

Matthew 26:39

³⁹ [Jesus] went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

My friends, if our good deeds could outweigh our bad and allow us to pass on into heaven, then it was possible for the cup to pass from Jesus; He didn't really have to die for men to be saved.

But the fact that Jesus drank that bitter cup of death demonstrates that it is not possible for men to save themselves! If we ever hope to be saved, we must trust in God and seek for his mercy!

Q: How do we receive God's grace and mercy?

A: By obedience!

Exodus 20:5-6

⁵ ... For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

God gives His mercy only to those who obey Him.

REMEMBER: We have already shown the Pharisees did not obey God's law.

They would not be recipients of God's mercy and grace unless they changed their ways.

John 14:23-24

²³ Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

²⁴ "He who does not love Me does not keep My words ...

If you want grace and mercy on Judgment Day, then you'll have to become obedient to the will of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.