

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

RLJ-1937

JOHN S. TORELL

NOVEMBER 12, 2023

PART 38: AGENTS OF SATAN

SCRIBES AND PHARISEES

I have no doubt that the high priest, scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, and the Herodians were part of Satan's network in opposing Jesus. The Son of God delivered a lengthy speech for the Pharisees and stated their father was the Devil. **John 8:44**

Lucifer and his minions predate mankind. They are eternal and the earth serves as a prison planet. They have been loose on earth since the day Lucifer successfully tempted Eve. It won't be until after the millennial kingdom that they get their just rewards and are cast into the Lake of Fire. **Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:7-10**

Jesus had a limited time on earth for ministry; humans have a lifespan of 120 years. **Genesis 6:3**

Lucifer also has a time limit in which to operate in comparison to Jesus, who only had 33 years, and with humans, we are limited to 120 years. Satan has been operating on earth for some 6,000 years, and once the millennial kingdom is over, he will have a very short time to do a last destructible work against the human race.

Satan and his minions never give up. They might be defeated temporarily, but they always rebound to strike humanity.

AGENTS OF SATAN

Jesus returned from walking on water and healing of thousands of people when the agents of Satan, in form of the scribes and the Pharisees, showed up for yet another confrontation. **Matthew 15:1**

Instead of congratulating Jesus for such notable miracles, they came to berate the God-man for not having the disciples to wash their hands before eating. **verse 2**

The high priest, his cronies, nor the rest of the Jewish leadership could heal the sick. Instead of rejoicing with the people who were healed from disease, they sought to discredit the miracles. They were just like political leaders that only cared about themselves.

I would imagine that the Son of God could see Lucifer standing behind these men. Jesus decided to engage and rebuked them for transgressing the Mosaic Law and replacing it with their own tradition (Talmud). **verses 3-6**

The Jewish leadership had come up with a scheme to increase the revenue from the temple and synagogues. "Corban" stated that if a man did not want to take care of his parents when they got older, which he should according to God's law, then he could contact a rabbi and deed his property and money to the synagogue system when he died. The rabbi would draw up a contract, and once it was signed, the man had no



obligation to take care of his elderly parents and could do whatever he wanted with his money and property until he died. **Mark 7:8-13**

Jesus rebuked the scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy. **Matthew 15:7-9**

Jesus stated the problem wasn't the food going into the mouth, but evil words coming out was what defiled a man. **verses 10-11**

Some of the disciples standing close to the Pharisees heard them offended by the words of Jesus and they related what they had heard to the God-man. **verse 12**

LEAVE THEM ALONE

The Son of God knew the Jewish leadership were set in their ways and had no intention of listening to His words, let alone changing their ways. He stated they were blind guides leading the blind and eventually God the Father would remove them. **verses 13-14**

The apostle Peter did not understand the parable and sought clarification. **verse 15**

Jesus questioned Peter's discernment. **verse 16**

The God-man explained that when a man puts food in his mouth, it is chewed and swallowed; received into the stomach, and broken down for its nutrients. Then it passes into the bowels and is ejected into a toilet. **verse 17**

Evil, voiced audibly, comes from your soul and that's what makes you dirty. **verse 18-19**

The apostle Paul clarified the sinful nature of mankind. **Romans 8:5-8**

Jesus concluded by stating food eaten with unwashed hands does not defile a man. **Matthew 15:20**

SUMMARY

People who have been captured by the Devil and possessed with demons do not have the capacity to see and understand the works of God. The religious and political leadership of Judah and Galilee were under the spell of the Kabbalistic teaching and its false messiah. They sought a Jewish man, anointed by God with supernatural powers, who could cast out the Romans, and re-establish the golden age of Israel.

The Kabbalists couldn't have cared less that the sick were healed, the blind could see, the lame could walk, and the dead were resurrected. Jesus just did not fit the mold of what their messiah should be. As a result, they did not care about the needs of the common people. All that mattered was the restoration of Israel to the way it was in the days of King Solomon.

Even the apostles were infected with this belief system and showed it on the day Jesus ascended to heaven. **Acts 1:4-8**

Let's work in the Kingdom of God, while we are still here on earth!

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?