

## **Religious Hypocrisy**

*When Yahshua revealed Himself as the Messiah to His own people, He rebuked them for their behavior, but what behavior? His rebuke did not focus on berating or scolding the people for their transgressions of the laws such as stealing, lying or not properly observing the Sabbath. No, they were rebuked for hypocrisy, declaring that they were the chosen people, walking **righteously**, when in fact they were not. This study will investigate scripture to better understand the message behind Yahshua's initial rebuke.*

Mt 6:1~8 Take heed that ye do not your **alms before men, to be seen of them**: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the **hypocrites** do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have **glory of men**. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the **hypocrites** are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, **that they may be seen of men**. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

**Hypocrites** #5273. Hupokrites; from #5271 an actor under an assumed character (stage-player) to put on a mask, false face, a dissembler.

*A hypocrite as defined is someone not acting as himself, but as someone else, as if wearing the mask of a different person such as acting as a righteous person when in reality he or she is not righteous at all. One will know them by their **fruit**. For example in Mt 6:1~8, one is shown giving alms to help the poor publicly in high profile display to insure his peers can see and credit him as being righteous. In another case, one is shown praying out loud while standing in a visible place so as all can see and credit him a righteous person. All these actions are being done with the pretence of showing off, to be seen by others.*

*So why was Yahshua rebuking them? Why, because **they were looking for their reward, to be acknowledged by society now, rather than from Yah**. Humbleness is a characteristic of Yah's. Yet most seem to want a reward now with acknowledgement from those around us...self exaltation. This is the character manifest in humanity that promotes self praise, orchestrated on a larger scale as seen in **emperor worship**. People make large self portraits, statues of themselves to be praised by others, **craving recognition**, credit given to self from others...now. This character emanates from Satan who obsesses to usurp all praise due to Yah.*

In 12: 37~50 (verses 42~43) Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they **did not confess him**, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: **For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.**

*Perchance we find ourselves here on occasion. How many times do we hear ourselves asking what is being said about us, and when the responses are flattering we want it repeated for our ears to hear again and again...can you repeat that please? "How sweet it is," the praise of self by others! Unfortunately, if that remains one's sole priority, that is the only praise you'll ever get as you carry it to your grave.*

Mt 23: 1~12 Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; **but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not**. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves **will not** move them with one of their fingers. But **all their works**

**they do for to be seen of men:** they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But **be not ye called Rabbi:** for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And **call no man your father** upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called **masters:** for one is your Master, even Christ. But **he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.** And whosoever shall **exalt** himself shall be abased; and he that shall **humble** himself shall be exalted.

*Note the instruction from Yahshua pertaining to leaders. He is telling us to admonish the teachings from Moses' seat, meaning the laws, but not to follow the works of the teachers because they are hypocritical. The works spoken of here would refer to one's actions in obedience to the Yah's law taught to the flock by the leaders, while exempting themselves to comply. And those times when the leaders actually did good deeds they were done in a high profile manner easily seen by all for recognition. Such leaders demand acknowledgement of their position by insisting being addressed by such titles as rabbi, pastor, father, reverend, minister and etc. all for self praise. Yet Yah says it is the humble who earn the honor of praise.*

*Remember when pointing the finger at another, there are three fingers pointing back at you. Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the most hypocritical one of all? I know we don't want to acknowledge this unpleasant reality, but sometimes don't we see ourselves in this exact position?*

Mt 23: 13~33 But **woe unto you,** scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

**Woe unto you,** scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

**Woe unto you,** scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

**Woe unto you,** ye **blind guides,** which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! Ye **fools** and **blind:** for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold? And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty. Ye **fools** and **blind:** for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift? Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon. And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein. And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon.

**Woe unto you,** scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, **judgment, mercy, and faith:** these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye **blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.**

**Woe unto you,** scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou **blind** Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

**Woe unto you,** scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of **hypocrisy** and **iniquity.**

**Woe unto you,** scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!** because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

*These leaders declaring religious superiority as Yah-sanctioned dispensers of the truth yet walk in hypocrisy. How are we any different? Do we say that we are the elect, the first fruit grafted into the olive tree? If so, perchance we should take a good look at what is growing from out of our branches. The truth of*

*who you are is not heard in words that explain your faith, but in **the actions that demonstrate your faith**, you're light to the world, clearly seen by others.*

*A great message is given here if we are wise enough to hear it. It's a message warning of **our** coming disaster **if** we don't change. Prior to every incidence of wrath from Yah, He always gives forewarning of the event.*

Amos 3:1~8 Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities. **Can two walk together, except they be agreed?** Will a lion roar in the forest, when he hath no prey? will a young lion cry out of his den, if he have taken nothing? Can a bird fall in a snare upon the earth, where no gin is for him? shall one take up a snare from the earth, and have taken nothing at all? Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it? **Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.** The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy?

*Are we aware of the filth of our inner self when He reveals His will to us and shows us our transgressions? Yah's message comes to us in many different forms, so we must be keenly alert. Examples of His warnings prior to correction are seen throughout the scriptures. When King Saul was rebuked for being an unrighteous king for not acting according to Yah's will, Samuel was sent ahead to warn him first.*

1Sam 15: 10~24 Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying, It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: **for he is turned back from following me**, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night. And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal. And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD. And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed. Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on. And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel? And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed. Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD? And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal. And Samuel said, Hath **the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.** Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king. And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: **because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.**

*Eli the priest who taught the prophet Samuel was rebuked for not correcting Hophni and Phinehas, his sons, while Eli still sat at the gate as a judge. The people witnessed his son's misbehavior as a warning before Eli was rebuked. 1Sam 2:22~34, 1Sam 4:10~18*

David was rebuked for conducting an census of his army instead of relying on Yah. Joab witnessed this error to David not to proceed with the census before he did, yet insensitive to the message many died because of his actions. 1Chron 21:1~30, 2Sam 24:1~25

Prophets were sent to warn the Israelites before Yah's wrath descended upon them, warning of the danger in refusing to accept their Messiah, living outside of His will. Yet all Israel declared then and still insist today that they are His chosen ones, His elect, yet walk contrary to His calling.

Look at what has happened even in our own time period. We were all allied with groups each saying they are the way and the truth and the light, but were found walking contrary to His will. Did He not send prophets to address their errors? Some of us acted in the role of prophets, offering instruction to enlighten, to counter their obstinately held errors. Hypocrisy says it is the truth yet walks in darkness...the same condition that Yah rebuked His people for practicing, "woe unto you." And so the same has happened down through time to the churches of today.

2Cor 10: 12 &18 For we dare not make ourselves of **the number**, or compare ourselves with some that **commend themselves**: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. Verse 18 For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but **whom the Lord commendeth**.

A principle: warnings come **before** the punishment. Warnings provide precious opportunity for us to change our ways. Warnings could be a leak or a small drip before the pipe ruptures, a noise or rattle before something is about to break, a sign that we are falling before the big bang comes and it's too late. The beginning Chapters 1~6 of the Book of Revelation reveal a warning of events to happen before His wrath comes. Chapter 7 onward tell of a time too late, the wrathful events that come upon the world were caused by those of disobedience who now must take their due punishment, and to the saints, their reward.

Warnings are always purposefully placed in front of us to see if we are willing to accept its message. It has always been up to us to respond...no one will force us to change. Witnesses in many different forms are there to encourage us, and at times, employ physical tools of correction to change our mind. The correction is for our good if we respond to the message, fixing it...before it breaks beyond repair.

King David was called a man after Yah's own heart because he was willing to repent...to change. Though he lost his kingdom for a while to an unrighteous son and was chastened even by the people around him, he was willing to change. Through repentance the action of change David became stronger and was reinstated, learned to be proactive, examining his responses, enhancing his behavior.

Pr 25: 27 It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory.

Pr 27: 2 Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

The summary lesson: We are not justified in saying we are His, or saying we are being righteous when **our actions** tell of another walk, that of hypocrisy. If we are doing poorly, we should admit it and not deny it and seek help before it is too late. For in the last days, it will be too late to overcome such a great mountain of trouble built up by our thoughts and inactions. There will be insufficient time or ability to overcome one's problem in waiting to the last minute.

Lk 18:9 ~14 And he spake this parable unto certain which **trusted in themselves that they were righteous**, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote

upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that **exalteth himself** shall be abased; and he that **humbleth himself** shall be exalted.

*Woe unto us, who reject the prophet's warning. Woe unto us thinking we are OK and saying it's nothing to worry about. Woe unto us who judge ourselves by using the unfruitful deeds of others as a legitimate standard. Woe unto us who think that there is plenty of time. Woe unto us who have hardened our necks and closed our ears to correction. Woe unto us who squelch the quiet still voice to justify self. Woe unto us... for we deserve what we get!!! And so it shall come.*

*Selah!!!!*

*The man who has lived for himself has the privilege of being his own mourner.*

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