



Bible Baptist Church of Sodus Newsletter

Fall 2008

From the Desk of Pastor Jay
Jesus and the Pharisees: Part II
(of a 2-Part Article)



Jesus' Objections With The Pharisees

Objection #1: Jesus objected to their legalism.

Legalism in a simple statement is, "a strict adherence to the law." This accurately summed up the Pharisees. Jesus objection with the Pharisees over legalism was not an indictment on the Law for Jesus himself said in Matthew 5:17, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill."¹⁶ His objection was their interpretation of the Law and the numerous oral traditions (Mishnah) they added to the written Law. This combination did not produce godliness in the life a Jewish person and in many ways was frustrating and constraining in their walk with God. I do concur with other authors that the Pharisees did have a basic and genuine desire to please God. They may have even been the right-wing conservatives of their day! However they had crossed the line with their legalism. Coleman writes this about the Pharisees; "They considered themselves not only the guardians of their own souls but also the moral policemen for everyone."¹⁷

Part of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount deals with this legalism issue. He addresses the Pharisees apparent keeping of the letter of the Law while missing the spirit of the Law. Matthew 5 offers a few examples. Perhaps if you would have asked a Pharisee if they have committed murder, they would have emphatically replied, "No!" But Jesus uncovers the full meaning of this law by digging deeper and challenging us to evaluate our anger or attitude towards a person. Is it such that we are murdering them with our words or thoughts? Had the Pharisees committed adultery? Perhaps not the physical act, but had they lusted after a woman in their hearts?

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Jesus also challenged the motives behind their legalism. Was it really for the sake of the godliness and benefit of others or to make themselves look better? In Matthew 12 we visit the account of Jesus healing the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath. Prior to performing the healing, Jesus is asked by the Pharisees if it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath. He replies in this way, "Then He said to them, "What man is there among you

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who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."¹⁸ We know from the previous verses that the Pharisees questioned him so they could accuse him. Their legalistic lifestyle left no room for the welfare of this suffering man. Jesus answered their callous attitude by healing the man right before their eyes!

Objection #2: Jesus objected to their judgmental attitude towards others.

Jesus was no stranger to confrontation and the exposure of false righteousness. In contrast was the negative, hurtful, judgmental attitude of the Pharisees. Jesus saw through their religious facade as a justification for their judging. We see this interaction with the Pharisees several times throughout the Gospels.

In Luke 18:9-14 Jesus gives one of his most direct and scathing descriptions of the judgmental nature of the Pharisees. Before sharing his parable Luke writes this prelude, "Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others."¹⁹ This parable vividly depicts the judgmental nature of the Pharisees. They were very proud about their own accomplishments, and very eager for others to see them. On the other hand, they had no time or concern for those like the tax collectors who were beneath them. They would go so far as to thank God that they are not like these low-lives!

Jesus' objection to the critical nature of the Pharisees is not seen in his teaching alone but also in their own interactions with him. One example was their condemnation of Jesus because of his activities on the Sabbath. Because Jesus had "broken" the Sabbath and violated other codes of the Pharisees, they judged him harshly by accusing him of disdain the Law, not possibly being from God, and claiming that his power to cast out demons was from Satan himself! Another example is in John 8 when

("Jesus and the Pharisees," continued on page 3)

My Master

My Master was so very poor,
A manger was his cradling place;
So very rich my Master was
Kings came from far
To gain his grace.

My Master was so very poor
And with the poor He broke the bread;
So very rich my master was
That multitudes
By Him were fed.

My Master was so very poor
They nailed Him naked to a cross;
So very rich my Master was
He gave His all
And knew no loss.

Harry Lee

*From the book, "Christ in Poetry," published in 1952 by the
National Board of YMCA.*

Don't miss

"A Christmas Invitation"

Featuring Bible Baptist
Church of Sodus'
Adult & Kid's Choirs

December 14
10 AM and 6 PM

(“Jesus and the Pharisees,” continued from page 2)

the Pharisees came to Jesus with the woman caught in adultery. While their primary motivation was to trap him in his answer, their underlying disgust and disregard for this woman comes through loud and clear. Women, Samaritans, sinners, and tax collectors were all chief targets of the judgment of the Pharisees. Jesus objected to this practice and spent much of his ministry reaching out to these types of people.

Objection #3: Jesus objected to their outward display of religion.

Jesus opposed the outward display of religion so common with the Pharisees. Before exposing examples of this outward show, I must communicate that Jesus was not downplaying or condemning genuine acts of righteousness. He was confronting the motives and purposes behind the actions of the Pharisees. Moseley lists seven types of extremist Pharisees as described in the *Jewish Encyclopedia*: (Only two are relevant for this objection.)²⁰

The *Shoulder Pharisee* paraded his good deeds before men like someone wearing a badge on his shoulder. Jesus began His diatribe against the Pharisees by mentioning the shoulder (Matthew 23:4).

The *Wait-a-little Pharisee* would ask someone to wait for him while he performed some good deed.

In Matthew 6:1-18 Jesus picks three areas of bragging that were prevalent in the lives of the Pharisees. The first one was in their giving habits. The Pharisees lived for the opportunity to be seen by others in their giving. In reference to the trumpet sound and giving found in Matthew 6:2 the Zondervan NIV Bible Commentary explains, “It seems most likely that Jesus is referring to a practice of proclaiming public fasts by the sounding of trumpets. At such times prayers for rain were recited in the streets, and it was widely thought that almsgiving insured the efficacy of the fast and prayers. But these occasions afforded golden opportunities for ostentation, and that is precisely what ‘hypocrites’ were guilty of.”²¹

The second area of pious displays was in their praying. The Pharisees looked for the best location to be heard clearly by others so they could marvel and appreciate the richness of their prayers. “Their prayers were directed not to God but to other men, and consisted of long, repetitive phrases.”²² Jesus instructs his listeners that they should in contrast to this behavior find a closet or secret place to pray and direct their simple prayers to their Father in heaven. Not for show but to seek their God who delights in answering their prayers!

Lastly, Jesus pointed out the showy nature of the public fasters. Jesus was not condemning or eliminating the practice of fasting. The Pharisees fasted twice a week and other devout Jews even more than that number. The problem was with the presentation of the faster. Instead of going on with their daily lives (washing and anointing with oil, Matthew 6:17) and keeping their fasting a secret from men, the Pharisees would purposely draw attention to the fact that they were fasting. They desperately wanted others to notice their displays of religious piety. Jesus calls them to fast in secret and to make it obvious to no one that they were fasting.



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Objection #4: Jesus objected to their hypocrisy.

Jesus soundly rejected hypocrisy. What did He mean when He pronounced this title on the Pharisees? Coleman writes on the definition of the word hypocrite, “The word *hypocrite* carried two meanings in the time of Christ, and he possibly intended both of them. The Hebrew concept was ‘godless,’ and ‘lawless,’ or impious. The Greek word carried that same tone but added the meaning of ‘actor.’”²³ Jesus addressed the Pharisees as hypocrites on several occasions but none as concentrated as in Matthew 23 where Jesus calls them hypocrites seven times! This passage contains woes or warnings from Jesus regarding their hypocrisy. Coleman again writes, “Like many modern Christians, Pharisees were shackled to a routine of religious conformity, but their faith and sincerity were an empty hull.”²⁴ Space does not allow for a detailed explanation of *all* the warnings, but following are a few of them.

1. The Pharisees were going down the wrong path of self-righteousness and turning others away from Christ and his kingdom.
2. They pray long prayers to impress people but don’t help the needy widows.
3. They worked hard at converting people to their system of self-righteousness which would lead to destruction.
4. They would tithe even of the spices from their smallest plants but neglected justice, mercy, and faith.
5. They looked clean on the outside, but were greedy and self-indulgent on the inside.
6. On the outside they were the picture of religious conformity (whitewashed tombs) but on the inside they were decaying like dead man’s bones.
7. They professed current and past loyalty to the prophets yet they were in the process of planning the death of Christ.

IV. Conclusion

Several other objections from both the Pharisees and Jesus could be explored but I hope this article gives a glimpse into the intense and controversial relationship between the Pharisees and Jesus. The Pharisees would continue in their false ways after the death of Christ, but there appears to be hope that some of them (Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus) responded to Jesus’ objections by putting their faith in him as the Messiah.

Endnotes:

¹⁶*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

¹⁷William L. Coleman, *The Pharisees’ Guide to Total Holiness*, (Minneapolis, Bethany House Publishers, 1977), 127

¹⁸*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982

¹⁹*The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

²⁰Ron Moseley, *Yeshua, A Guide to the Real Jesus and the Original Church*, (Baltimore, Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1996), 105.

²¹Zondervan NIV Bible Commentary, New Testament, 30.

²²*The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, New Testament, 34

²³Coleman, 95

²⁴Coleman, 96

Editorial:

Taking on Water

"Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, 'Lord, save us! We are perishing!'

"But He said to them, 'Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?' Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. So the men marveled, saying, 'Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?'"

Matthew 8:23-27 (NKJV)

How great a picture the above scripture is for Christians who undergo terrible trials! We can identify with the boat being the "vessel" of our lives, and the "great tempest" arising being the stormy seas of trouble in our lives. In our vessel, we have a sleeping Jesus, seemingly. The Prince of Peace is calm in the midst of the storm. We are trying to get our vessel through the storm, but grow fearful as we see the swells (loss of income, loss of health, something that threatens our well-being in some way) and we are wondering why the Lord hasn't taken away the threats or maybe answered our prayers.

We try to exercise faith, but the Lord still has allowed the calamity to come. And not just one trial, but several are threatening to overthrow our ship. Our comfort zone is eroding away; soon it's just us and the Lord, and He expects us to hold on to our faith in Him, yet He is asleep in the bow of our unsettled situations. We are now behind in a bill or two that is due ("we are taking on water!") and still the Savior has not interceded and made things right. So we petition Him ("Master, careth not that we perish?") and He

gets up and immediately admonishes us for our lack of faith.

We know that at some appointed time in these trials (that have to do with increasing our faith), He will arise and rebuke the terrible tempests of discouragement and overwhelming waves of frustration. "Peace, be still" He will utter, and there will be a calm. Again, we will have 20-20 vision as we look back in hindsight at what we have just come through, and see the divine plan of God that has strengthened us, taught us, and brought us to a safe haven of victory.

We grow to understand that Christians will be tested. We may get a little seasick from time to time, get used to sea spray wetting our brows, try



to remain standing at the helm in the tempest, give up the comfort of being able to stay dry as we are occasionally knocked down into the pools that have swept over onto the deck. It may be day, and there is a great fog and no way to

see if we are headed the right way, or it may be night and overcast, no way to see the stars or moon, and the fears over our destiny increase.

The men in the real boat with Jesus saw only a man asleep, a "great teacher" or even "Master," but they had no idea Who He was and what He could do. We, however, have no excuse. In hindsight, we have the scripture that teaches us the truths of this text. We know it is there for our learning. We know it teaches us about terrible storms and faith, and that God is calm in the midst of the storm. It teaches us that, in our human nature, we will grow concerned over our situations, and yes, even impatient. It teaches us that He will hear our petitions and, after we have been taught a bit more about faith, He will calm the seas and rebuke the winds.

So faith asks, "Will you praise Him at the end of all this? Or will you praise Him in the midst?" Christian, ask yourself the question: which will bring Him the greater glory?

- K.D.



What an exciting start to the Awana Club year! We currently have 47 children attending the Awana Club on Wednesday nights. Of those 47 children 28 do not attend services at BBCS. We have 18 new children to the Awana club representing 14 new families. One of the most exciting things is that 7 of these new families are a direct result of the Community Carnival and Vacation Bible School held this past summer. We also have 7 new leaders serving our Lord in Awana this club year.

A few weeks ago one of the new Truth & Training girls (3rd-6th grade) was working through her entrance book. As she was working on memorizing "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23 we spoke about what sin was. As we were describing sin she remembered one thing that Sandy Stone had shared in her council time message that ignoring people was sin. This young girl stated that she does that to her younger sister and didn't realize that it was sin. We continued to speak about the bad news that we all have sin and shared with her that there was good news about our sin. We told her that as we continued to memorize our Scriptures we would learn more about that good news. (The entrance book for Truth & Training contains the complete gospel in it.) We asked her if perhaps Mrs. Stone had shared about the good news, and she replied that she said something about God would forgive us through someone named Jesus. What a joy it was to see a young girl unfamiliar with church or "religion" come to Awana and hear a message about Jesus and connect with that message. Pray for this young girl and all the Awana clubbers that as they hear about the good news of Jesus that their hearts would be open to accepting for themselves the gift of salvation through Christ Jesus. You could ask any of the Awana leaders and they could share many more testimonies of how our Lord is working in the hearts of the Awana children and in their hearts as well.

What a joy it is to walk the halls of our church on a Wednesday night during Awana. You will see leaders sitting down on the floor sharing the love of Christ with the children and helping them to understand the meaning of the Scriptures they are memorizing. You will walk into the sanctuary and hear the clubbers and adults worshipping our Lord with enthusiasm and see the good news of Christ being seen sometimes for the first time in the eyes of the children. As you walk into the fellowship hall you see the team work taking place and the energy being spent as they play the Awana games. Please pray for those faithful leaders who share the love of Christ with the clubbers each week, pray that we would be able to be clear in sharing Christ and His gift of salvation, pray that we would be able to help those who already know Christ grow in their faith, pray that we would be able to reach out to the parents who entrust their most precious children with us. If you would like to experience Awana for yourself to see if this is where the Lord would use you as a missionary please contact Tim Montondo or Brenda Miller. If you would like to share a testimony or Bible lesson (we have great material for you to use) with our Truth & Training club (3rd-6th graders) for 15 minutes on a Wednesday night please contact Brenda Miller. If you have children that have not attended Awana they are welcome to start at any time of the year.

The Awana Grand Prix was held on Wednesday, October 29th. The Awana Grand Prix is the first event that we hold each year with the direct purpose of connecting with the parents of our Awana clubbers. This year we once again held it on club night. We had over 50 cars to race. Many clubbers and adults left happily with trophies!

On Sunday, November 30th our Awana Missionary, Marlin Fuller, will be at BBCS during the morning service to share the Awana ministry. We will be having our second Awana Sunday inviting the parents of our Awana clubbers to come and see their children share through special music. Please pray that many families would attend and that they would be drawn to seek the Lord for salvation and that they would continue to fellowship with us at BBCS. Thank you for your support of the Awana Club, if you would like to receive specific prayer needs please contact Brenda Miller.

(A testimonial from one of our AWANA leaders follows on page 7!—>)

An **Awana**

Testimonial from Shelly McDonald...

WOW, Awana has been crazy busy so far this year. As most of you know the clubbers are divided into one of four colors, Red, Blue, Yellow or Green. Game time started with about 3 or 4 on each team, very manageable, but this month we had an Awana Boom.

There are 5 or 6 on each team and that makes for an incredible game time. We have had amazing relays, learned lots of new games and competed against each other with lots of laughter and joy. Can you tell I am the Game Director??

There is also time set aside before each council time (which is the message time) for some music. I believe that this being the second year of "live" music that they and I are now very comfortable with each other. We have learned a few new songs and kept some old favorites. Some of our songs require lots of movement and we end of laughing more than singing.

May I say thanks to all the other leaders for their support in game and music time, especially Mr. Ray Szarek helping with the singing, and my greatest thanks to our Lord and Savior who gives us the opportunity to be his lights in the darkness.

Why is Awana special to me? Last week when I went to leave, a little Sparkie suddenly ran to me and hugged me, another one was shyly waving her fingers at me, "Bye, Mrs. McDonald, see you next time?"

Yes, precious child, see you next time.

Editor's Note: More testimonials from other ministries in our church are greatly encouraged!





Missions Conference 2008

The Bible Baptist Church Missions Committee kicked off another great missions conference, which places an emphasis on world missions awareness throughout the church body. The focus month is October every year, but the Missions Committee's main thrust is to keep missions a focus of our church body throughout the year. A ready tool for this is the "World Missions Month" pamphlet that they put together, handed out liberally (see? that *can* be a *good word!*) before and after church services during October, and available for the asking or found in the missions display area of the lobby. Our awareness started off in a peculiar manner this year (well, we *are* suppose to be a *peculiar people*, according to I Peter 2:9!), when Pastor Jay passed out an awareness quiz (match the 18 missionaries we support with their countries or missionary organization). Nanita Szarek exclaimed in the foyer, after the service, "Last year we (she and her husband, Ray) only got about four right; since we've been praying for our missionaries for a year, we got them all right!" Pastor Jay also supplemented this exercise with exercises on "Myths about Missionaries" and "Missions Discussion Questions."

Our first visit from our missions field was a Sunday morning message (Oct. 5) from Paul Burgess of Good News Prison Fellowship International, in which he is the local Chaplain in Wayne and Monroe Counties. That same evening, Pastor Jay and members of the Committee lead us in a Missions Prayer service. Throughout the month, missions-focused messages were preached on Sunday mornings. A missions banquet had a pre-focus on the short term missionary trips of Kelly Kolyer, who traveled to France, and Chris Hewitt, who traveled to Mexico. Both of these gave slide show presentations on the morning after the banquet during the Sunday school hour. It is very encouraging to see and hear of younger missionaries from our church embarking on journeys for the purpose of winning souls to Christ and spreading the gospel. In the worship hour, the church's Guatemala Team (Pastor Jay, son Erik, Jon and Sandy Stone, and Pam and Claudia Arend) gave their presentation of their experiences. On October 12, the church watched a missions movie entitled, "End of the Spear," a true account of the martyrdom

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of Jim Eliot and his team of missionaries by and Ecuadorian tribe and the eventual mercy and conversion of the same tribe during the months and years that followed. The son of Jim Eliot learns who his father's murderer is (through the man's own revelation) and forgives him, changing both of the men's lives forever.

On Sunday evening October 19, we had another special treat, due to modern technology: our first-ever Webcam conversation with Larry and Sharon Lilly, our missionaries to Mexico. They have been missionaries for 39 years! They shared with us their most immediate, up-to-the-minute prayer concerns:

- they need a new Dean of their Bible College, a godly man
- they want God to bring them more students to minister to
- a church started a year ago needs a Pastor (so far only lay-preachers have been teaching the Word)
- they are concerned about other religious groups in the area who call themselves "evangelicals," but do not adhere to the rules of the government
- modernism (liberalism) is seeping in with humanist teachings such as evolution now becoming commonplace teaching in the schools (just like in the States).

Sometimes during the webcam "visit" the sound was quite loud, other times not loud enough, and picture was often delayed, but otherwise, it was a very unique and cost-savings visit from the Lillys! We really felt that they were right there with us, making our Missions Conference very special!

On the final evening, we were presented with future missionary opportunities and we were strongly encouraged to become involved in serving in missions both locally and abroad. There is plenty to do, including a Utah trip (Larkins, next July/August), "New Hope for Philly" (July 12-18), South Africa (Summer 2010), and BBCS Short Term Missions: Wayne County Missions Work Camp (Aug. 9-14, 2009) and BBC Summer Volunteers (Summer Volunteers Conference), June 14-20 and July 12-18. Jon Stone also gave a presentation of his experiences with a missions organization that he had served in, the Construction for Worldwide Evangelism. He had traveled to Bolivia and helped in the construction of a building there. The organization usually has about four projects (four teams) going on throughout each year and encourages women to sign up, as the teams need cooks to help feed the teams! Jon and his wife Sandy have already signed up for a trip in April 2009! Jon also shared the scripture that inspired him to take his first trip, Acts 1:8, "*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*"

Let us remember what Pastor Jay shared in his introduction regarding this verse in this year's

Our Missionaries

Joseph & Daniel Contreras, Spain	Larry & Sharon Lilly, Mexico
Pat & Mary Delaney, Taiwan	Thomas & Faith Obunde, Uganda
Rick & Becky Enterline, Japan	Matt & Flor Patton, Dominican
Brad & Ronda Hastings, New Mexico	Republic, Cuba
David & Sue Johnson, Israel	Sally Seefried, South Africa
Phil & Barb Klumpp, Phillipines	Paul & Lucy Scott, Vietnam
Llyod & Marth Larkin, Utah	Rick & Sue Simonsen, Kenya
Jim & Becky Lee, Mexico	Bill & Lori Smith, New Guinea
Dan & Deanna Woodard, Canada	Paul Burress, Good News Jail
Scarlet Thread Ministries _ Jay & Roxanne Roscup	

Christmas Events/Outreach Opportunities

Sodus Point Christmas Tree Lighting

Members of the BBCS Choir and congregation are invited to sing at the Sodus Point Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec. 6th at 1:00 PM. Directions are in the foyer.

Community Christmas Caroling

We will again be caroling at homes of friends and family. Sign up in the foyer to sing, drive and to have carols delivered. Carolers will meet on Sunday Night, Dec. 7th at 6 PM at the church.

Adopt-a-family Tree Ornaments

Paper angels are available in the foyer on the Christmas tree to share the love of Christ with those in our community. Please put one of the angels in the box under the tree and keep the other. Suggested spending is \$25; wrap gift(s) in one package, return to the church office by Dec. 14.

"A Christmas Invitation"

Our yearly Christmas Cantata will take place on Sunday, Dec. 14, during the 10 AM worship hour and again at 6PM in the evening service.

Continental Breakfast

Takes place at 9AM on Sunday, Dec. 21st. At 10 AM, we will have a Christmas Theme Service.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6PM on Dec. 24th

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