

LESSON XLVI.—WOES PRONOUNCED ON THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES

November 18, 1899.

In the Temple at Jerusalem, A. D. 31.
(Matt. 23 : 1-39.)

*Side Texts to be
studied with
questions*

1. NOTWITHSTANDING Christ had exposed the evil character of the Jewish officials, what did He tell the people of the position they occupied? Matt. 23 : 1, 2.
2. In view of the place held by them, what attitude did Jesus say the people should hold toward these rulers? Verse 3.
3. How did He justify His statement, "They say and do not" ? Verses 4-7.
4. After pointing out the glaring defects of those in power, what council did Jesus give? Verses 8-10.
5. What is true of one who is really great in the service of God ? Verse 11.
6. What is sure to come to those who put themselves above others? Verse 12.
7. What reason did Jesus give for pronouncing the first woe upon the scribes and Pharisees ? Verse 13.
8. For what reason was the second woe pronounced ? Verse 14.
9. Repeat the charge against them under the third woe. Verse 15.
10. In pronouncing the fourth woe, what did He call them? What errors had they taught? Verses 16-22.

Neh. 8 : 4-8 ;
Mal. 2 : 7.

Rom. 2:19-24

James 3:1 ;
1 Peter 5: 3.

1 Peter 5 : 5-7 ;
Ps. 55: 22.

11. What greater wrong made them subject to a fifth denunciation? Verses 23, 25.
12. Under a sixth woe pronounced, what did Jesus say those leaders were like? Verses 25-28.
13. Under the seventh and last woe, with what did Christ charge the scribes and Pharisees? Verses 29-32.
14. In what terms did He describe their character? What question did He raise? V. 32.
15. What did He say would be required of the generation guilty of these things? Verses 34-36.
16. Suddenly changing His manner, what tender yet mournful words were uttered by the Lord? Verses 37, 38.

Micah 6 : 8.

Luke 11:39

Acts 23:3

Acts 7 : 51, 52.

Reading

"Desire of Ages," chapter 67 ;
"Spirit of Prophecy," vol. 3, chapter 4.

NOTE

1. Mark says that after the public silencing of the Pharisees, "the common people heard Him gladly." They were then prepared to hear dark revelations concerning their former leaders. After they had perceived the hypocrisy of the men in high places, there was no longer any danger of their turning against their Lord. On the other hand, their attitude would deter the officials from laying violent hands on Christ until He had fully brought out their character in its true light. His words of condemnation on this occasion were most scathing ; yet they were those of gentleness ; to the Pharisees, however, they were but the voice of volumed terror.
2. Never were more terrible denunciations uttered than were heaped on those Pharisees. Yet this was done without any commingling of sinful passion, or of revengeful malice. **His words were those of the Eternal Judge**, which all who shall be found at last in the same class, will hear concerning themselves. How different the words of this last day's message in the temple, from the teaching, of the Saviour on the mount of blessing.