

Matt 23.

Jesus was the one perfect man who ever lived. He was God in flesh on earth among people. Some look upon him as being only human and no higher. They feel this goodness was only an example. How did it happen that Jesus so true, so loving, perfect, pure was put to death in his early thirties? It seems almost incredible that there would be anyone who would oppose him.

But men desired His death, they conspired for it, they planned, plotted, schemed to bring it about. They looked upon Him as being dangerous, as being a menace, they felt he had challenged the things they held most dear. They worked for his death with they though was a reasonable purpose in mind. When they went to work they found allies who wished the same thing. This group worked and it led them to that green hill outside the city where strange people met at Cavvary.

Why did so many people seek the death of Jesus? What crime had he committed to rate such cruelty? I want us first to look at the Pharisees and their motives for they were called the good folks of their day. They took counsel against him and sought to destroy him, Why?

1. Who were the Pharisees? Why didn't they agree with Jesus?

They were religious people, the best men of their race at that time, were rated by some as being good, they had grown up in a school of thought to preserve the traditions of men. In the centuries preceding the birth of Christ the noble line of Hebrew prophets had ceased to be. The Pharisees as a body partly filled the gap. They stood as if they were in the Mosaic line. Jesus said of them they sit in Moses seat.

These Pharisees were not priest but were teachers & guardians of the law. They ran the schools in the Synagogues. There can be little doubt that the average Pharisee was a man of high moral character. & sincere. They sought to keep the nation uncontaminated, by not associating with the Gentiles. They put an iron strictness into the whole way of life. They knew the Jews were God's chosen people so they made a line of separation, would not eat with them or deal with them.

The strength & weakness of the pharisee is seen in the parable of our Lord in the Publican & pharisee at the temple. How he differed from the publican...

He was telling the truth..fasted twice a week, Mon. & Thur. It is with some admiration that you look upon them. They wanted the highest no regime is to strict for them.

In the body of Jewish civil & cannocial law these religious people are divided into 7 groups.

1. The shoulder pharisee.. who wears his good deeds on his shoulder. obeys the law because of expediency.

2. The wait -a-little pharisee..begs for time to preform a meritorious action.

city law. If two cars at a railroad. stop until the other one has passed.

3. the bleeding pharisee..who to avoid looking at a woman shuts his eyes and so bruises himself to bleeding and stumbling into a wall.
 - 4.the painted pharisee..who advertises his holiness lest any should ~~easy~~ touch him to defile him.
 5. The reckoning , who is saying what duty to balance around to make up ~~for~~ some neglected duty.
 6. The fearing. a relation to God of trembling & awe.
 - 7.the pharisee of love.
- In all but the last there is an element of acting & hypocrisy.

I. They hated Jesus.

In Matt., Mark, Luke & John they appear in poor light.

Many Rabbis resent the picture given of the pharisees. They seek to uphold them of their fine qualities but the Bible also speaks of their qualities.

1. Hated Him because of His Authority.

Believing in Christ as we do , we understand his authority. He came from God the Father, He spoke from God the Father.

The common people noticed it immediately. they said, " He teaches as one with authority and not as one of the Scribes.

That note of authority offended the pharisees. As educated men & leaders they were accustomed to receiving certain social respect but didn't receive it from Jesus. He treated them with the kindness and independence that he treated others. They resented that, they began to ask. who is he anyhow. He's carpenter's son from Nazareth, he speaks with a Galilean accent. He has just been to one of our Synagogue schools. He never sat at the feet of the Rabbis. *investigating*
But Jesus continued to speak with all authority: *Schemes, over meals*
DOESN'T LISTEN TO US

" I am the bread of life " " No man cometh to the Father but by me "
" I and my Father are one "

They hated him for his authority. No doubt they had been used to controlling the services in the synagogue and had under their thumb the Rabbi. If the Rabbi failed to speak as they desired they called him on the carpet and then dismissed him. He either preached to satisfy them or he had to go. And they thought they could do the same with Jesus.

But look at the preaching of Amos. John the Baptist. Paul.. and so did Jesus continue his preaching, the people of course could stay & hear it or go to another synagogue. Jesus didn't tell them they had to stay but he did continue his straightforward preaching as God the Father directed him. *on Salvation - Christian living*

2. Hated him for including all in his plans.

The Jews were chosen people, had a spiritual mission. they had national pride, we are children of Abraham. He said I come to the Jew first for it was through them that he was born but he implied that his message was universal. Beginning at Jerusalem it was to encompass the world. He had time for all types of people. The pharisee hated him for this.

3. Hated him for his Social Appointments.

He attended weddings, feasts, listen he actually invited himself home to dinner with one of the most notorious publicans of Jericho. Zaccheus..He had a meal with him.

That was a terrible shock to the pharisee.

4. Hated for his attacks upon them:

In the 23rd chapter of Matt. you can feel some of the burning statements. He called them hypocrites to their face. One thing on the outside and another on the inside.

Five times in a few verses he utters his woes upon them.

He call them "blind guides" "as rotten graves"

People today sometimes will hate you for telling the truth about them. When a prophet or preacher sets forth the truth, there are still those who hate.

5. Hated him for his popularity.

*Dislike - have a yr - long term
over - help him - you should
have heard them, a yr ago.*
Common people heard him gladly. Pharisees lost ground. The people didn't flock to hear them but they did Jesus. The people didn't run to them to ask questions and advice as they had in the past, now they went to Jesus and the pharisees hated him for it. For they were so jealous and envies of him. Jealousy etc. is dangerous.

6 Hated him enough to seek his life;

Probably. like you if you dislike people. all your information about them, what you hear, what they do etc. will fall into your mould of dislike. In other words they won't do anything right as far as you are concerned.

The pharisees disliked our Lord. They interpreted his authority as blasphemy. " He puts himself with God "

When he includes others, not loyal to his own Jewish race.
by associating with publicans..he is dangerous morally.

they thought he was a danger to the nation. He must be destroyed.

When they set out to do this the Sadducees joined them along with others who disagreed. The good people of their age became a part of the greatest crime of all history. They sent officers off to arrest him and bring him before council.

The pharisees present the most terrible picture of history of how good people can go wrong.

*Hard - How far you get after using it.
like every thing*
This means of course that one can be a student of the Bible, have good morals and yet crucify afresh the Son of God. Spiritual pride can insane a person. It is possible to reach spiritual heights but then forget that in order to live up there you must do so on your knees.

This group were more concerned about the traditions of men than the truths of God, more concerned about washing the face than their heart. He would strain at a knot and swallow a camel.

Conditions still exist today where people hate Jesus.

Some of these are church members but what they can do to tear down the work of Christ..

Lost people are expected to hate Jesus....

Plaza 6/28/64
Brentwood 7/13/58