

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”
Matthew 23: 1 - 39
April 20, 2014

Religion Is A Poison That Blinds Its Followers To Their True Condition Before Christ, (vs. 1 - 39)

Christ Calls Us To See Where True Love Is Found And Openly Share It, (vs. 29 - 36)

Message Emphasis: Many today are like the Pharisees of Jesus day; they are very religious but devoid of genuine Christian love. They insist on their system of belief and are unyielding with those who don't agree while missing mercy and grace all along. We must see that the true love of Christ moves us speak the good news of Christ's death and not our particular view of religion.

The passion, for all its juridical trappings, is a failed sacrifice... The uniquely human... character of violence, which has been "hidden since the foundation of the world"... is fully revealed... What is denounced in Jesus' reproach to the Pharisees is not homicide only, but the principle by which murder is justified; what is uncovered is the dissociation from the victim by which homicide and persecution are perpetuated, and furthermore dissociation from the persecutors:

"It is not a question... of a hereditary transmission but of a spiritual and intellectual solidarity which is accomplished... The sons think to dissociate themselves from the fathers by condemning them. By this very fact, they imitate and repeat their fathers without knowing it. They do not comprehend that in the murder of the prophets it is already a question of rejecting one's own violence far from oneself. The sons remain therefore governed by the mental structure engendered by the founding murder" ~~ Andrew J. McKenna

1) The Love Of Christ Shows Our “Rose Colored” History For What It Really Is, (vs. 29 - 30)

- Christ will not let you pretend - **Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** *It doesn't matter what you were taught*
- Christ will not let you “skirt by” on the work of others *How am I trying to cover my own tracks by decorating someone else's work*
For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous,
“Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. So you are witnesses and you consent to the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their tombs.” (Luke 11:47-48, ESV)
- Christ will not let you dress up your falsehood by blaming others *How am I denying my part by lying about what I would do?*
saying, ‘If we had lived (Impf.Mid.Ind) in the days of our fathers, we would not have (Impf.Mid.Ind) taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’

2) The Love Of Christ Delivers The Self-righteous From Their Sentence Of Death, (vs. 31 - 33)

- Because you know this is true proves your generational sin *Denial of the truth doesn't mean it's not true*
Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered (Aor.Act.Part) the prophets.
“Why do you contend with me? You have all transgressed against me, declares the LORD. In vain have I struck your children; they took no correction...” (Jeremiah 2:29-30, ESV)
- God has promised to judge your generational sin -
Fill (Aor.Act.Impv) up, then, the measure of your fathers. You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?
for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.” (Deuteronomy 5:9-10, ESV)

3) The Love Of Christ Will Testify Against You If It Does Not Testify For You, (vs. 34 - 36)

- You don't have to continue in your inherited sin - **Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes,**
- Understand though, Christ is not the easy path - **some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town,**
- You will be held responsible for your lies - **so that on you may come all the righteous blood (Pres.Pas.Part) shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.**
- Christ's words are real & their message is real - **Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.**

O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, That in thine ocean depths its flow May richer, fuller be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glory dead, And from the ground there blossoms red Life that shall endless be.

*****What Must I Do To Be Saved? ****

Message Directive: Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul ONLY in Christ will you know what true love is.

8. Christ Calls Us To See Where True Belief Is Found, (vs. 37 - 39)