

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James.

## A Call to Repentance

([Joel 1:13-20](#); [Amos 5:4-15](#); [Zephaniah 2:1-3](#))

**1There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.**

The back story here is hard to find; there is no Biblical evidence in other words the Bible does not comment specifically on this event of Pilot killing Galileans; so, we have to go to other trusted sources to see what we can find. Josephus is a source that is based a lot on firsthand observation as well as on a well-researched evidence from either written or first-hand accounts.

We will look to Josephus but before we do that a little bit about Josephus; this is copied from “Answers in Genesis”

*“One of the most-quoted resources about the world during Bible times is the first-century historian Josephus. But who was this man, and should we trust what he has to say?”*

*Famed Jewish historian Josephus Flavius was born in Jerusalem in AD 37 or 38, not long after Christ’s crucifixion. The son of a priest, he became a Pharisee, a military commander in the Jewish resistance, and an eyewitness to Jerusalem’s destruction in AD 70. Eusebius, the first church historian, calls him “the most*

*famous Jew of his time” and tells of a statue erected in his honor in Rome.*

*For two millennia Christian scholars have preserved and studied Josephus’s works, especially his account of the Jewish revolt (The Jewish War) and a complete history of God’s people from creation to the first century (Antiquities of the Jews).” .....*

*“As a teenager, Josephus spent time with various Jewish sects and knew them well. He later observed the Jewish revolt from the front lines. When he was captured, he got to see the other side. In fact, he won the favor of the general, Vespasian, by accurately predicting his rise to the throne of the empire. Josephus ultimately switched sides and received Roman citizenship, even adopting Vespasian’s imperial family name, Flavius. He now had access to the emperor’s libraries, military reports, and court records from Herod and other rulers in Palestine.*

*The principal value of Josephus’s work lies in his discussion of Jewish history from 100 BC through AD 100. His narrative of this era is strongly supported by numerous authentic sources he gathered and interpreted with skill.*

*Josephus’s works provide us with valuable details that do not survive in any other records. In fact, he provides the most important extrabiblical information on many key political figures, such as Herod the Great, Felix, and Pilate. For instance, most of our knowledge of Herod’s extensive building projects, such as the temple that Christ often visited, comes from Josephus.”*

We gather from Josephus and the Bible that Pilot hated the Jews and was not above antagonizing them in order to put many to death. Josephus writes about an event in which Pilot had taken money from the Temple Treasury and built an aqueduct to bring

water into Jerusalem. The taking of the Holy contributions enraged the Jews and so they surrounded Pilot's headquarters as the day of one of the large feasts was approaching. Pilot had intel that the Jews were going to do this, so he had a large number of his soldier's dress as Jewish travelers and interspersed themselves amongst the rioters. At a given signal from Pilot his guards using clubs and not swords would attack the Jewish people, many who had brought sacrifices with them for the festival. It is reported that as many as 3000 Jews were slaughtered either by being beaten with clubs or in the stamped to escape the slaughter. In any event a large quantity of their blood had spilled onto the intended sacrifices.

In verse 1, Jesus and His apostles are told of this horrific event as perhaps it was new news.

**2And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things?**

Jesus response is not political it is of course spiritual. He does a comparison asking the very people who told of the event IF the sins of these Galileans that were killed was worse than all those Galileans still in Galilee. In other words, had these Galileans been killed by God for their sins meaning that those still in Galilee were sinless?

**3** I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Jesus then declares the answer because He knows the hearts of men and He knew they had not been killed by God for sin but for standing for the Law of God; they were martyred.

Jesus goes on to say that those present will die and will their death be that of one that dies in his sin or do you want to repent and live in eternity with God? The message was of course to REPENT, just the same as it is today and all over the world!

***Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.***

***Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;***

***1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

## March 29, 2020 **deferred to April 11, 2020**

**4Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? 5I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

The tower at Siloam fell one day and killed 18 Hebrew people so Jesus asks this group; was it their sin that caused them to die? Jesus says it was not.

They still died just like all of those listening this day, the difference will be; do you die as a sinner or do you die as a repentant lover of God.

The same question is valid today, just because an accident or event happens does not mean it is punishment from God, those things happen all the time and may be more related to the fall of man in the Garden of Eden; the question is ARE YOU READY Spiritually when your time comes, have you repented of your sin and asked Jesus into your heart and set out on a path to walk in obedience to Him. The day you repent if you die that day you are still saved.

***Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.***

## The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

In these next verses we will see the vineyard represent Israel and the Fig Tree represent Jesus, the vine keeper is the Holy Spirit and God is the owner of the vineyard. Also, if you will read Isaiah 5 you will see God's perspective on Israel as His vineyard.

**6**He spake also this parable; A certain *man* had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.

The Spiritual and Physical representation here is God taking Israel as His own, in this case, God is the "man", the Fig Tree is Jesus and it is planted within His chosen people Israel being the "vineyard". The "man" God came to see the fruit that came forth from His Son's ministry during the three years; the "Fig Tree" Jesus, had operated in His Ministry on earth for three years.

Jesus was diligent in His Ministry as we have studied, but the closer He got to Jerusalem, the more the religious leaders rejected Him and in turn many of those in Israel, regardless of what they had seen and heard rejected Jesus due mainly to the religious leaders. I say the religious leaders; but all evidence point toward Satan as the author of this rebellion against God and His Son.

God's inspection of the vineyard (Israel) revealed "no fruit" likely within the religious leaders. We know from scripture that there were a few, within the religious leaders, who had recognized Jesus as the Messiah, but not the majority of the religious leaders that were needed to open the hearts of the nation.

**7Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?**

The words seem harsh, but it is addressed to a parity of the Holy Spirit as the "dresser of the vineyard".

In the case of Christ, He was physically cut down, sacrificed for the sins of the world but was He Jesus Spiritually cut down as the Tree of God in this Spiritual garden? NO! Jesus Ministry and creation of His Church would not only bear fruit but grow around the world with fruit in abundance.

Not included in this parable but I will add this truth that comes later; the gentiles would be grafted into this tree or vine, it is a fact that a tree can be cut down but still graft in healthy branches and they will be fed by the tree and grow. To be clear the analogy of the tree and the grafting is of the gentile believers, it is not only gentiles, it is made up of Jews who are and will be saved. Once

the grafting takes place regardless of Jew or Gentile remember this;

***Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.***

**8**And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung *it*: **9**And if it bear fruit, *well*: and if not, *then* after that thou shalt cut it down.

The Holy Spirit as the vinedresser asks for additional amount of time to see if there really is no fruit. The process the Holy Spirit is asking time to perform would be a normal means of trying to revitalize a dying tree.

The comforter that Jesus said would come is the Holy Spirit; In this simile He is beseeching God to wait a short time to see if the Tree (Jesus ministry) can produce Fruit. The Fruit is of course the Church that Jesus built, it has no other name than His Church or His Bride.

The notion was in this parable that if no fruit came from Christ ministry, His Life, His Crucifixion and His Rising from the dead, then there was nothing more that could be done to save man.



This is of course a simile from Jesus to make a Spiritual point about how Israel was given every opportunity to open their eyes to the Messiah. Their failure will not be forever, they will come to the knowledge of Jesus as Lord and Messiah.

### **Jesus Heals a Woman on the Sabbath**

Some minor points to think about here in the next few verses; Jesus had not yet reached Jerusalem; He is attending a synagogue in an unknown city in Samaria. In Synagogues, there were no priests, the priests worked only in the Temple, so the ruler of the Synagogue would be a local City Elder, a man who had lived there likely most or all of his life. He would be well respected and would put together the lessons and teachings for each Sabbath. He along with other city elders would oversee the workings of the local Synagogue. This leader would likely be attuned to the goings on within Israel and issues from the Temple and Jerusalem. He would be well versed in the Law and the Prophets. Jesus would have to be asked by this elder or Synagogue leader to teach on the Sabbath.

**10And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath.**

For the Sabbath services to move forward there had to be at least 10 Jewish worshipers in attendance. During the time of Jesus

there was no separation in Synagogue of men and women and women counted toward the number 10. Today it is different; today women in some Synagogues do not count toward the 10.

The following is copied from;

<https://www.jerusalemerspective.com/2663/>

[“The Place of Women in First-century Synagogues](#)

[Shmuel Safrai \[1919-2003\] 1993Sep01 Articles 2  
Comments](#)

*Today, public worship can take place in a synagogue only if at least ten adult Jewish males are present. Women do not qualify as part of this quorum. Furthermore, women are separated from men within the synagogue: women worship in an ezrat nashim, a balcony, or section with a divider, located beside or behind the men’s section. Things were considerably different in Jesus’ day.*

*“In the time of Jesus there was no separation of the sexes in the synagogue<sup>[1]</sup> and women could be counted as part of the ten individuals needed for a religious quorum. This allowed women to be much more active in the religious life of the community than they are today.”*

### **The “Ten”**

*According to halachah, in order to have a congregation, or edah, a minimum of ten persons must be present. Boaz gathered ten elders of Bethlehem to witness the legal transaction that*

*gave him possession of the land that belonged to Naomi, and Ruth the Moabitess as his wife.<sup>[2]</sup> By the first century C.E. it was established that every public or official religious gathering must have ten persons. Therefore, public or congregational prayer could not be conducted without that minimum presence.”*

**11And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up *herself*.**

Now we know that this woman was likely sitting or standing within the Synagogue. Her presence would undoubtedly be seen due to her bent over condition and she was probably well known in this community.

**12And when Jesus saw her, he called *her to him*, and said unto her, **Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.****

Jesus did not inquire if she repented or if she had sin, she needed to confess, He simply healed her.

She had a chronic condition that according to the teachers of the law was not allowed to be healed on the Sabbath. The legal authorities had decided that a physician could heal in an emergency on the Sabbath but not heal chronic diseases on the Sabbath.

As to verse 12 the verb used by Christ “art loosed” is in the perfect tense meaning that it had already been done, all she needed to do was to walk in that “loosening” that had already occurred. She just didn’t know it yet until He said it.

**13And he laid *his* hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.**

**Q.** If you had to choose one reason why God heals what would it be?

1. Because He is a loving God?
2. Because He is God?
3. Because He can?
4. To receive Glory and Honor as the God of Creation?

No one asked Him to heal her, He took it upon Himself to call her out and to release her from her infirmity. All of the above answers are correct in some way, but the one that strikes me the most is the last one.

***Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.***

***Philippians 2:10 ..at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tong shall confess that Jesus is Lord to the Glory of God the Father.***

**14And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.**

Synagogue leaders likely had little latitude in the Law, they were instructed by the Sanhedrin who had both Sadducees and Pharisees and the Sanhedrin determined how to interpret the law and how to administer the law throughout Israel including in their small jurisdictions.

It was made up of 23 sages and met daily in the Chamber of Hewn Stones in the Temple. They would hear cases on religious matters and their decisions were final. If anyone violated an edict from the Sanhedrin they were to be put to death.

The Sadducees were the predominate group at the time of Christ with the Pharisees being the minority. The main difference was that the Pharisees believed in resurrection after death and the Sadducees did not, the Sadducees were strict adheres to the Law and gave no credence to the Oral Law and Oral History, they went strictly by the written word. The Pharisees were open to the Oral History and Oral Law as passed down. That is likely why they were so willing to make up laws or interpret laws as they used past practices; expanded upon them as they saw fit that and

did not rely solely on the written Law. Jesus called them out on this very issue several times.

In Mark we find one of the events Jesus called the Pharisees out;

***Mark 7:8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.***

Here in lies a danger within any religions of today; they were made up by man and many have taken great liberty in interpreting the Word of God; many rejecting the actual Word of God to obtain a more acquiescent Social Gospel. There are a number of mainline denominations that preach predominately a social gospel claiming it comes from Jesus and coining terms like Social Justice. Unfortunately, social justice is determined by what is currently socially acceptable unlike God's Word that is based on Truth and Fact from God's perspective that never changes. No other perspective matters.

Now Jesus had just healed a woman who had been afflicted for some 18 years, and He did it on the Sabbath. The local Synagogue leader accused Jesus of violating the law which had been expanded by the Pharisees. The very Law that Jesus as God had handed down to Moses at Mt. Saini!

**15The Lord then answered him, and said, *Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?***

My dad was a Mormon and my mom a Methodist. One day my dad came home from church and declared that we would no longer work on Sunday's. We were farmers and ranchers with lots of crops and lots of animals. My mom's response was simple; if the animals don't eat, neither will you. And so, ended the edict of no work on Sunday the animals were fed on schedule as were we.

Mankind when given the opportunity will make all kinds of rules ostensibly for the betterment of man. Often there are unintended consequences when we try to expand on what God said to do. He knows the beginning from the end and we as men and women do not.

Jesus calls on the common sense of mankind which is not all that common nor does it make sense many times. But in this case Jesus just referenced the need of an animal to drink and that anyone thinking through the issue of animals and healing, would take care of the animals and if possible, heal a person even on the Sabbath.

**16And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?**

Well there is a fine court case for the Sanhedrin; does this local Synagogue sage take Jesus before the Sanhedrin over healing a woman on the Sabbath or does He quiet himself and learn.

Jesus places above the Sabbath a single person and expects this sage to understand that based on what is written in the Law, not what was interpreted from the law.

**17And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him.**

*Mark 2:27 And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:*

The Sanhedrin had interpreted the Law incorrectly placing the day that God made for man, above mankind. God made the Sabbath as a day of rest for mankind but not at the exclusion of helping our fellow man or caring for animals.

**Q.** So what should we do on the Sabbath?

Rest

**Q.** Does that mean that you don't feed your animals or your family?

No, feed your animals, preferable before you feed yourself.



## The Parable of the Mustard Seed

([Matthew 13:31-32](#); [Mark 4:30-34](#))

**18**Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it? **19**It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it.

In Hebrew history they have always used the mustard seed as an emblem or meaning the smallest of whatever they were speaking of. Christ uses it here to depict that His Own Gospel, Good News which at its beginning was very small and without attribute just like the small mustard seed. Small in the sense that it was handed down person to person starting with Him to His Disciples. They carried on this process and the Church grew and grew just like the mustard plant.

***John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.***

The seed had to fall to the ground just like Jesus did, He fell to the earth, born of a virgin, raised by a carpenter, not educated nor as the Bible tells us in Isaiah; “pleasing to the eye”, He was a

common man to look upon, but what was inside Him? That was the Creator of the Universe, He is and was God Almighty.

Jesus planted the seed of the Good News into the hearts of the Apostles just as He does with each of us. The foundation had to be laid first in order to support the immensity of the tree that was going to grow out of that foundation; the Church that Jesus built.

The apostles grew in Sanctification after Christ rose from the dead and filled them with His Holy Spirit just like He does with us. As they grew in Sanctification so do we grow in Sanctification, if we walk in obedience, the more obedience the more Sanctification, the taller the Mustard Tree and the larger the Church of Jesus grows.

The Church, the Body of Christ, the Bride, through the power of Christ provides protection, safe refuge, secure dwelling, Life, Freedom, Hope, Love, Grace, Mercy all because of what Christ did with the smallest of seeds in this case that seed was "FAITH". The ability to believe with one's whole heart that Jesus is the Christ the Messiah, the Only Son of God and HIS WORD is TRUE and Faithful. Only His Word is True and Faithful; not necessarily any manmade religious words, only HIS WORD is true.

## The Parable of the Leaven

[\(Judges 20:18-23; 2 Samuel 2:12-32; 2 Chronicles 13:4-19; Matthew 13:33-33\)](#)

**20And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? 21It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.**

This verse can be taken in one of two ways or both ways.

Leaven is often a reference to bad or evil simply because it carries out its task hidden from sight in the way evil operates. If left unattended it will eventually fully permeate its host; if meal for bread, it leavens the whole loaf, causing the entire loaf to rise up revealing the presence of the leaven that started it. If we consider evil as the leaven in man's life, if left not dealt with it will eventually make the entire person evil, it will "leaven the entire loaf", the entire man or woman.

The idea of "three measures of fine meal" is a Biblical term we find part of its definition in Genesis.

From Gills Exposition on Matthew 13:33 covering the same verse it says this;

*The measure here designed, is the Hebrew seah, which held a gallon and an half, and three of these made an ephah; (4 ½ gallons) and which is often rendered by the (a) Targumists, , "three seahs", or "measures", the very phrase here used; and the reason why three are particularly mentioned is, because such a quantity used to be fermented and kneaded by women at one time; see [Genesis 18:6](#) and for the further illustration of this, take the following passage out of the Talmud (b),*

***Genesis 18:6 And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth.***

One way you might interpret this verse is if you take this verse to speak of evil is as was just explained.

However, if you take a different view of this verse;

***[20](#)And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? [21](#)It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.***

Jesus likens the Kingdom of God to this reference to "leaven".

The idea that this leaven could be associated with the Kingdom of God by its nature it has to be considered in a good sense. In this case the leaven was the Gospel; The Good News. This Good News the Gospel of Jesus Christ was placed within the hearts of mankind, collectively the CHURCH that Jesus built; all that would receive it, and though the seed of faith was small when it was

given to the believer it grew and grew as long as it was watered by the Word of God in repentance, acceptance and sanctification it continued to grow.

Relative to the individual believer this seed of faith like “leaven”, permeated all parts of the human soul, the mind, the body and the heart; bringing all in accord with God’s Will, if the person walked in obedience.

Speaking of a seed again, consider what happens with the fruit of the wheat; the kernel that is harvested to make the very meal that the “leaven” would be placed in. That kernel of wheat is taken to the mill and there it is ground to a fine flour. That grinding that takes place for the human is called “Life”. Life will grind a man or woman to a fine powder, but the essence of that LIFE will determine what that fine flour will be used for. Did the seed of Faith cause that kernel to grow to Love God, to Seek God or did an evil presence cause it to go astray, did the flesh draw that kernel of wheat to be so tainted that when ground to a fine flour it will be useless, cast out into the fire?

You can choose which of the two ways of looking at the leaven seems right to you. It can be both, it does not have to be either or.

It was given to us by Jesus as a means to learn about both good and evil that is present in this world.

## **The Narrow Gate**

**(Matthew 7:13-14)**

**22And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.**

Jesus was relentless to pursue His course to reach His destination of Jerusalem. As we saw He dreaded what was awaiting Him, but He determined to be obedient to God regardless of the pain that was to be His. His success would save mankind, failure on His part would mean the eternal doom of mankind.

**23Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,**

Jesus never hid the fact that many would reject Him, it was apparent to His disciples that the majority of the religious leaders were rejecting Him and that the population would follow their leadership. So, they wanted to know; how many would be saved?

**24Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.**

I do not intend to embrace legalism and what we understand that to be. There is in my opinion a difference between legalism and

obedience. Legalism often comes from man's interpretation of God's Word. God declares a doctrine for a specific group of people. For example, the Law was given for the nation of Israel. It was intended that they were to be obedient to the Law and through that obedience they would be a light unto the world; showing the world that the nation of Israel worshipped and honored the One True God of all Creation; Yahweh.

Satan intervened at every opportunity to destroy the Law, to convince Israel to follow after other gods. He would often use women and men of other nations to entice those of Israel away. Illicit Sex and the lust of the flesh is one of the most prolific and powerful means that Satan has and continues to use to draw people away from Christ. He also uses greed and the desire for power as some of the basics to draw man and women away from God.

God has spoken of two of these issues; power and money.

***Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.***

***Proverbs 29:4 A just king gives stability to his nation, but one who demands bribes destroys it.***

As mankind, if we as believers allow Satan to destroy our witness it will eventually destroy the entire Church; it is like the leaven we

spoke of. It is so critical to repent of our sins, turning from them to walk in obedience to God. The following verses gives a simile view of how those who maybe attended church every Sunday, even proclaimed the name of Jesus as do the Mormons, and many other cults and christen religions do. But the fact is that if they do not belong to the Church that Jesus started, they are lost. To not speak the truth is disobedience to God and denies the Truth that God has given us.

If it is not obvious in the following verses the “master of the house” is God and those who are seeking to enter are the millions of people who were pho-Christians. People who played the Christian game but never really gave their hearts to Christ and failed to choose obedience over sacrifice.

**25When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: 26Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. 27But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.**

Jesus warned us repeatedly about obedience to His Commandments; these being some of the most direct warnings He gave us.



**John 14:21**

**Whoever has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me. The one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him."**

**John 14:23**

**Jesus replied, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make Our home with him. 24He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.**

**John 15:10**

**If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love.**

**1 John 2:3**

**By this we can be sure that we have come to know Him: if we keep His commandments.**

**1 John 5:3**

**For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome,**

**2 John 1:6**

**And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the very commandment you have heard from the beginning, that you must walk in love.**

These verses from 1<sup>st</sup> John, and 2<sup>nd</sup> John show the antithesis of what verses Luke 25-27 tell us will happen. In verses 25-27 Jesus explains that there are many who declare with their mouth that they love and follow Him, but their hearts are far from Him; these are the people of Luke 25-27.

*Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*

**28There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.**

*Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

Whether intentionally or unintentionally there are men and women in the flock that will mislead the flock. For this to happen it is likely to be intentional; and is likely associated with power and money.

Study for yourselves what God says is Good and Just, what Righteousness looks like, how it is walked out in life. What Grace and Mercy look like when Jesus portrayed them with His own life and has asked us to do the same. Depend not on any man to show this to you, depend on Jesus and Him alone to be the example of what He is asking of us in obedience.

**29And they shall come from the east, and *from* the west, and from the north, and *from* the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. 30And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.**

From around the globe will the brothers and sisters of Christ Jesus come together to form the Great body of believers called

His Church. There will be some that come that were held in high esteem that will find their hearts revealed at the Bema Seat of Christ and found lacking, Saved, but lacking. There will be those of low esteem who have walked in humbleness and will stand before the Bema Seat of Christ and when their hearts are revealed will be found to be of the nature of Christ Himself; Humble, Contrite, filled with the Love of God and being so filled transmitted that Love to all who came in contact with them. These will be lifted up and will be first.

***Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.***

***1 Samuel 15:22 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.***

This verse from 1 Samuel speaks to the very reason Jesus had to die on the cross. God preferred Israel and mankind to be obedient to His Word. That is His preference, he prefers it over sacrifice. Sacrifice is needed in case of disobedience.

## **Lament over Jerusalem**

**[\(Matthew 23:37-39\)](#)**

**31The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee. 32And he said unto them, Go ye, and**

**tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.**

The rest of the story as Paul Harvey used to say is that Luke is the only Gospel to recount this event. It is believed by some scholars that a man within the hierarchy of Herod had told some Pharisees that were not against Christ of Herod's uneasiness about Jesus. It is suspected by these scholars that Herod was very nervous about using force against Christ like he had against John the Baptist. So, Herod sent word for Jesus to flee Galilee all the time knowing that Jesus was headed to Jerusalem. Herod knew that in Jerusalem Jesus would not have the support He had in Galilee and would then be under the authority of the Jewish Sanhedrin. Herod was convinced, say these scholars, that the Jewish Religious leaders would take care of this ever increasingly popular Rebel. Apparently, Herod was aware of the dislike of Jesus by the religious leaders in Jerusalem. We are not told this Biblically it is put together by Bible Scholars that use many extrabiblical sources to explain something like this.

Regardless of how these scholars came to this conclusion we do have Jesus here describe precisely what He intended to do in Jerusalem and how through the chaos that would surround Him He would emerge victorious on the third day.

**33** Nevertheless I must walk to day, and tomorrow, and the *day* following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem.

The plan had been laid and Jesus knew that He must die in Jerusalem, like so many of God's prophets had. The very place chosen by God for Abraham to sacrifice his own son; as a foretelling of what God was going to have to do to save mankind. It was all located in the same place the hills where Jerusalem would be built the very place that the Messiah would be killed by His chosen people.

**34** O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen *doth gather* her brood under *her* wings, and ye would not! **35** Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until *the time* come when ye shall say, Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

**Q.** When does Jerusalem say; “Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord”?

*Revelation 11:13* **13** And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and **gave glory to the God of heaven.**

It appears that it will take this tragedy to open the eyes of the nation of Israel.

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James.