



Sample Lesson  
The God Man - Teachers Manual

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LESSON TWENTY-EIGHT

# FINAL WARNINGS

**I**t was the last day of Christ's teaching in the temple. Throngs of people had been attracted to Him. They crowded the temple and listened closely to His words. The situation was very strange indeed, for people were accustomed to listening to their religious leaders who wore beautiful robes and garments, who seemed pious and religious and who talked from an exalted position. Jesus was different. He wore the clothing of a common person, and yet He had the dignity of a king. Jesus was calm and spoke with great authority.

## THE MOTIVES OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS

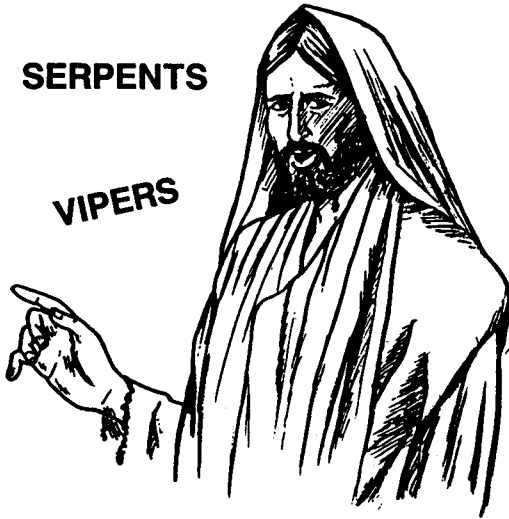
HYPOCRITES

FOOLS

BLIND GUIDES

SERPENTS

VIPERS



The religious leaders had rejected Jesus and His teachings and continually condemned Him and tried to ensnare Him in order to persecute Him. But they had done so in vain, for Jesus had an answer for every question; and all His answers had the authority of God.

Jesus had told parables and given warnings to try to awaken the Pharisees and the other religious leaders to the truth of who He was. Though warnings had been given, they went unheeded; for these men would not listen. Now Jesus knows the time for the cross is at hand. No longer does He use subtleties to teach; now He speaks clearly and forcefully of the corruption that He saw. Before He went to the cross, He wanted to fully expose once and for all the inner character of the priests, rulers and Pharisees.

As you read and think through the following passages, note how Jesus referred to these men, what He condemned them for doing and then explain what their inner motives were. All passages are from Matthew 23.

Matthew 23	What Did Jesus Call Them?	What Did Jesus Condemn Them For Doing?	What Were Their Inner Motives?
2-4		Claiming to have the same authority as Moses; giving heavy burdens to the people	They gave the people heavy burdens, but they would not lift a finger to help.
5-7		Doing religious things to be seen; loving the best rooms at feasts and the best seats in the synagogue	They enjoyed power and rank and had selfish ambition.
13-15	Hypocrites	Keeping people from going into the kingdom; saying long prayers just to be heard	Because of their wrong motives, they made people children of hell rather than members of the kingdom.
23-24	Hypocrites; blind guides	Obeying the letter of the law but omitting judgment, mercy and faith	Obeying the letter of the law and not the spirit
25-28	Hypocrites; blind; whited sepulchres	Only outwardly appearing righteous	Full of hypocrisy and iniquity

## THE WIDOW'S MITE

It was at this point that Jesus noticed a widow who was giving an offering to the Lord. Read Mark 12:41-44 and answer the following questions about this incident.

What attitude did the widow seem to have as she approached the place of offering?

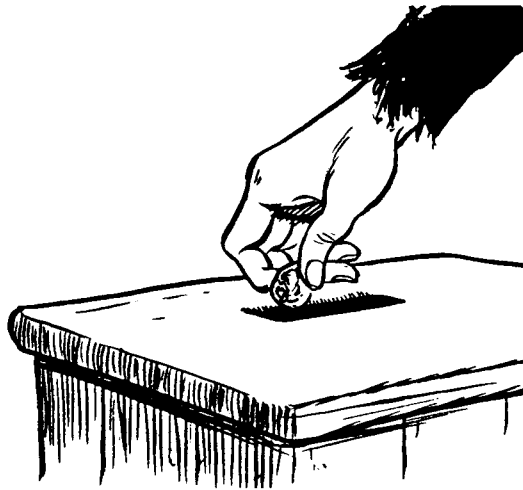
She walked quietly with no outward show.

What do you think her status and position in life were?

She was very poor and was a widow.

What did Jesus point out about her inner motives?

She did not give for outward show but gave all she had because she loved God.



It is your motive that gives character to all your actions, stamping them with hypocrisy or with moral worth. God does not necessarily praise those things that man sees as important. God notices those things done from the heart—those things done with the power and strength of the Holy Spirit. A heart of faith and love is much dearer to God than the most costly gift. The widow gave the little she had. And she gave in faith, believing that God would not overlook her need. It was her unselfish spirit and faith that God would bless.

## GREEKS WHO WISHED TO SEE JESUS

Jesus had left the temple as one who had finished His task. He had said what was necessary to expose once and for all the hypocrisy of those who profess religion but were far from God. As He left the temple, some others approached Him. Read John 12:20-43 to find the following answers.

Who wanted to see Jesus? (12:20-22)

Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover feast

These men were not Jews, but Gentiles. What did Jesus do rather than talk openly with these men according to verse 36?

He hid Himself.

Obviously, this was not the normal reaction of Jesus to those who came to Him.

Thus Jesus must have had a reason for doing this. Read verses 23, 27 and 32-33 and explain why Jesus did not greet these men at this time.

The timing was not right. Jesus had to be crucified, raised again and glorified. Then He could "draw all men to Himself."

However, some Jewish leaders did believe in Him. According to 12:42-43, why would they not admit this openly?

They were afraid of the Pharisees and did not want to be put out of the synagogue.

What inner problem do you think they still had? They loved the praise of men more than God's.

## THE FINAL PLOT

While these events were taking place and Jesus was delivering His final public messages, other important events were taking place. Jesus was fully aware of these "behind the scenes" happenings as they were all a part of the great plan of salvation that was to take place. Though His opponents met in secret, Jesus was fulfilling His mission openly and without hypocrisy.

As you read the following verses, explain who is plotting against Jesus and what they are plotting to do.

Matthew	Who Is Meeting?	What Is Their Purpose?
26:1-4	The chief priests, scribes and elders at the home of Caiaphas, the high priest.	How to deceptively take Jesus to kill Him
26:14-16	Judas Iscariot and the chief priests	Judas said he would give Jesus to them for thirty pieces of silver.

## MY RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST

Jesus always looks for the inner motive behind what a person does. He exposes selfish and vain motives and attitudes. Acting religious outwardly does not necessarily mean that we are right in our hearts. Think of two areas in which teenagers can have wrong motives and attitudes, even though they are doing the right thing outwardly. Be ready to share these two areas with your class.

First area: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Second area: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## TEACHER'S LESSON

### ■ Signs Of The End Of The Age

- False Christs and false prophets  
(24:4-5, 23-27)
- Wars and rumors of wars (24:6-7)
- Famines and earthquakes (24:7)
- Persecution (24:9-14)

### ■ The Time Of The End

- No one knows but the Father (24:36-44).
- We must be ready (24:44).

■ Lessons From Three Parables

● The Ten Virgins (25:1-13)

✓ Be ready for the coming of the Lord.

✓ Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

● The Talents (25:14-30)

✓ Let Jesus use you.

✓ Understand the principle of sowing and reaping.

✓ For those who reject Christ there will be darkness, weeping and gnashing of teeth.

● The Sheep And The Goats (25:31-46)

✓ The Christian life involves helping the needy.

✓ Jesus' judgment of us will result in either eternal punishment or eternal life.



## LESSON TWENTY-EIGHT

# FINAL WARNINGS

### TARGET TRUTHS

- Jesus always looks for the inner motive behind what a person does.
- Jesus exposes selfish and vain motives and attitudes.
- Acting religious outwardly does not necessarily mean that we are right in our hearts.
- Judas, the Pharisees and other religious leaders looked like righteous men outwardly; but their hearts were far from God.

### TEACHING STRATEGY

#### THE MOTIVES OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Discuss the meaning of the word “motive” and make sure there is full understanding of the concept that what we are on the outside does not mean we are right before God within our hearts. Often we do things for show or to make others think well of us rather than because we desire to let Jesus live through our lives. Discuss that it is not wrong to have others think well of us, but we should also examine our reasons and purposes for doing what we do. When Jesus is in control of our lives and the Holy Spirit is working through us, we will have the right motives; and our actions will be right also.

As each of the passages is discussed, help students analyze the inner motives as they come to an understanding of the hypocrisy of the Pharisees.

■ Verses 2-4: These men claimed to have the same divine authority that Moses had. Thus they presumed to take his place as preachers of the law and as judges of the people and demanded obedience from the people. Jesus told the people to obey the commands of God as they had been taught but not to follow their example, for they did not practice their own teachings. Jesus also said they put too much on the people; they expected things of the people that God Himself did not proclaim and which the religious leaders

themselves did not follow.

■ Verses 5-7: These religious leaders did things to make an outward show of piety. Phylacteries were used in the Old Testament by men who wrote important Scriptures on pieces of parchments and put them in small boxes which were worn on the forehead and arm. The purpose was to let the Scriptures be a constant reminder to the person who wore them. But these men wore them as badges to attract attention to their piety and their great devotion to God. Jesus saw the vanity within their hearts and exposed it. These men were guilty of a selfish ambition that craved power and a place of rank. They were not humble or concerned about others.

■ Verses 13-15: Here Jesus condemned the priests for changing the Word of God, blinding the minds of those who would otherwise have received the knowledge of the truth. By not teaching the truth, they had kept others from finding the way to heaven.

■ Verses 23-24: By making a show of purity, these leaders deceived their fellow men. They gained the confidence of those who had money, and then they used the money for their own selfish interests. This would never have happened if their own inner motives were pure instead of selfish and greedy.

■ Verses 25-28: Here Jesus firmly dealt with the inner and outer man, explaining the blindness of those who are hypocrites. We cannot be right on the outside if we are not right on the inside.

#### THE WIDOW'S MITE

No one can deceive God, even if we can deceive others from time to time. God knows every motive of the heart and will judge every man according to his deeds.

Jesus noticed the widow who gave all that she had, though in man's eyes it was very little. While He was rebuking those who misapplied the widow's gifts and used it for their own selfishness, He commended the widow who gave to God from her heart. God would bless the widow just

as surely as He would judge the abusers of her gift.

## GREEKS WHO WISHED TO SEE JESUS

The following discussion is important for a full understanding of the events in this section.

The Greeks had heard of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. There were many rumors circulating about what Jesus had done and what His purpose was. The Greeks longed to know the truth in regard to Jesus. When the Greeks asked for Jesus, He was in the outer court of the temple, which excluded everyone except Jews.

No one as yet fully understood Jesus' mission on earth—not even His disciples. Jesus expressed His mission as follows: "The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified" (John 12:23). But the way in which this glorification must take place was by the cross, for only by His death could the world be saved.

The Jews did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah when He was born. Rather it was wise men from the East (Gentiles) who came to find Him. Now, once again, it is Gentiles who wish to know Him. They did not realize, however, that the time for their salvation was close at hand—but still not yet. Jesus would die for the sins of mankind. Upon rejection by the Jewish nation, He would turn to the Gentiles (all those who were not Jews) and offer His great salvation to them. The Apostle Paul would be instrumental in spreading the gospel to the Gentiles. As for now, Jesus was not being unkind or unloving; He simply understood the sequence of events that must happen before the Gentiles could receive salvation.

The questions about John 12:42-43 point out that there were a few Jewish religious leaders who did believe that Jesus was the Messiah. However, even they would not admit this openly because of their fear for their positions and what others might think of them.

## THE FINAL PLOT

With Judas' meeting with the scribes, the decision had been made, and Jesus' fate was sealed. It would only be a few hours until Jesus was taken, and the plan was put into action.

## MY RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST

Let students work on this assignment separately and then have a good class discussion of areas that can be problems. Do not make it a time of

confession of sins but a general overview of the types of situations or areas of life where inner attitudes and motives may be a problem.

## ADDITIONAL TEACHING SUGGESTIONS

### Self-Esteem

Self-esteem is recognizing the importance of our worth to God in His plan. We are each uniquely created with a divine purpose for our lives.

The purpose of this activity is to begin to enable students to see why they have problems accepting themselves and how this lack of self-worth affects every other aspect of their lives.

Go over the following list of self-worth traits: (1) areas of freedom: courage to stand alone, unconditional love, genuine friendships, goal-setting, moral purity in mind and body, a forgiving spirit, integrity, self-control, self-discipline, loyalty, pleasing others, respecting authority; (2) areas of inner conflicts: apathy, materialism, covetousness, jealousy, making excuses, hypocrisy, gossiping, impure thoughts, a critical spirit, bitterness, submitting to negative peer pressure, problems with alcohol, smoking, drugs and sexual immorality.

Discuss the list of traits using the following types of questions.

► Read through the list of traits. What pattern do you notice in the way they are organized? (The traits that indicate a person has strong self-worth are in the first category called "areas of freedom." Evidences of a lack of self-worth are listed under the second category called "areas of inner conflicts.")

► Why are those who have high self-worth more capable of evidencing unconditional love and courage to stand alone for right? (They are not overly concerned about how others react to them. They are content with what God is doing in their lives. They have learned that they can only truly love others because they accept God's unconditional love for them. Because they trust God for everything in their lives and are thankful for what God is doing in their lives, they can truly act in an unselfish manner.)

► Why are those who have problems with alcohol, drugs, smoking or immorality really showing a lack of love for themselves? (They do not care what really happens to them. They are trying to prove their worth in wrong ways. They are trying to get others to accept them but are in fact hurting themselves instead. They are trying to find love in other ways and have become selfish and self-centered.)

► Discuss the list of traits step by step. Perhaps

some traits have been left out that students believe should be added. Try to note why different attitudes or traits arise from others. For example, self-control is a prerequisite for having integrity in our lives. Also, bitterness and a critical spirit work together to create further problems in other areas of our lives.

► Have students analyze the list for themselves and then decide which areas are the ones in which they have problems from time to time. Discuss the fact that we all sometimes have problems with some of these traits such as doing things to please people instead of God or being too materialistic. The goal is to grow up in God and eliminate these problems from our lives. But we should never have a rebellious spirit or addictive behavior as a part of our lives. Some of these things will always be a problem. For example, many adults who stop smoking say that they still have an addictive desire for a cigarette many years later.

### TEACHER'S LESSON

Jesus is about to be crucified, to rise again, and finally, to ascend into heaven. Before these events took place, Jesus explained what would happen when He returned to the earth. Read Matthew 24-25 together as a class. You may want to give an overview of the three parables in Matthew 25 yourself or break the class into three groups and let each group present a discussion of one of the parables.

### SIGNS OF THE END OF THE AGE

- False Christs and false prophets (24:4-5, 23-27)
- Wars and rumors of wars (24:6-7)
- Famines and earthquakes (24:7)
- Persecution (24:9-14)

### THE TIME OF THE END

- No one knows but the Father (24:36-44).

- We must be ready (24:44).

### LESSONS FROM THREE PARABLES

#### The Ten Virgins (25:1-13)

- Be ready for the coming of the Lord.
- Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

#### The Talents (25:14-30)

- Let Jesus use you.
- Understand the principle of sowing and reaping.
- For those who reject Christ there will be darkness, weeping and gnashing of teeth.

#### The Sheep And The Goats (25:31-46)

- The Christian life involves helping the needy.
- Jesus' judgment of us will result in either eternal punishment or eternal life.

### QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Pharisees (Jewish religious leaders)
2. A poor widow
3. Some Greeks
4. The chief priests, scribes and elders along with Judas
5. Any three of the following would be acceptable:
  - False Christs and false prophets
  - Wars and rumors of wars
  - Famines and earthquakes
  - Persecution
6. (1) Be ready for the coming of the Lord; oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit  
(2) Let Jesus use you; understand the principle of sowing and reaping; for those who reject Christ there will be darkness, weeping and gnashing of teeth  
(3) The Christian life involves helping the needy; Jesus' judgment of us will result in either eternal punishment or eternal life

■ **Signs Of The End Of The Age**

● **False** \_\_\_\_\_ and false \_\_\_\_\_  
(24:4-5, 23-27)

● \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of wars (24:6-7)

● \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (24:7)

● \_\_\_\_\_ (24:9-14)

■ **The Time Of The End**

● **No one knows but the** \_\_\_\_\_ (24:36-44).

● **We must be** \_\_\_\_\_ (24:44).

■ **Lessons From Three Parables**

● **The Ten Virgins (25:1-13)**

- ✓ **Be \_\_\_\_\_ for the coming of the Lord.**
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

● **The Talents (25:14-30)**

- ✓ **Let \_\_\_\_\_ use you.**
- ✓ **Understand the principle of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

- ✓ **For those who reject Christ there will be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

● **The Sheep And The Goats (25:31-46)**

- ✓ **The Christian life involves \_\_\_\_\_.**
- ✓ **Jesus' judgment of us will result in either eternal \_\_\_\_\_ or eternal \_\_\_\_\_.**

LESSON 28 QUIZ—FINAL WARNINGS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

1. Whom did Jesus call “hypocrites” and “blind guides” in Matthew 23?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Whom did Jesus use as an example of pure motives in Mark 12?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who wanted to see Jesus in John 12:20-22? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who plotted to kill Jesus in Matthew 26? \_\_\_\_\_
5. List three signs of the end of the age mentioned in Matthew 24.
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
6. Give one lesson we can learn from each of the three parables in Matthew 25.
  - (1) The Ten Virgins: \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) The Talents: \_\_\_\_\_
  - (3) The Sheep And The Goats: \_\_\_\_\_