

WAR AT WAR

VOLUME XVII NUMBER V
Judgment To Victory II

THURSDAY, May 1

Scripture: Matthew 12:14-15

Because of my military background I have often thought of studying the scriptures from strictly a military viewpoint. We're told in Psalms God is a man of war. Second Corinthians 10:4 says, "...the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds...." Ephesians 6 tells us to "...put on the whole armor of God...for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers...." The Bible is full of war terminology and typology. Matthew 12:1-2 reveals a classic example of attack, counterattack which is a major foundational principle of warfare. In verse 14 the Pharisees attack Jesus. They counsel together in how they might destroy Him. When Jesus learns of their plans He relocates and heals everyone in the multitude. In your future study of Scripture look for "attack", "counter- attack" and ask yourself what application does this have for me in the days ahead. Rest assured, there should be plenty of application.

FRIDAY, May 2

Scripture: Matthew 12:14-16

In verse 16 Jesus uses another military principle. After the counter attack of verse 13 in which He launches a dramatic display of God's love through healing, He warns the people not to make Him known. He wants to finish the race, complete the call, but He knows one necessity of so doing is secrecy. Jesus attempts to maintain a degree of anonymity in order to preserve enough of freedom to finish the call of God on His life. The whole issue of when we reveal the plan of God is an issue to which the Body of Christ needs to pay much more attention. I think we often prematurely declare and decree for all to hear something God wanted us to birth in secrecy and anonymity. We mistakenly advertise it to the world allowing resistance to build and detours accomplishment of God's purpose. Broadcasting divine purpose is dangerous. In the natural course of life, if we refuse to share our secrets with those who have loose lips, how much more God. World War II spawned a very interesting quip which had a great truth. That saying had a naval application and went like this, "Loose lips sink ships." Do you have loose lips about God's plans? Can He trust you with the secrets from His War Room?

SATURDAY, May 3

Scripture: Matthew 12:14-17

We usually don't think in military terms and consequently we forfeit fulfillment. When we put verses 16 and 17 together we begin to comprehend another heavenly principle of God. Verses 16 and 17 say, "And He warned them not to make Him known, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:" The element of secrecy or surprise was necessary in order to bring fulfillment to a seven hundred year old

prophecy. Jesus taught the people as if, “Loose lips sink ships.” Mary treasured prophecy in her heart not on her lips. How much fulfillment of prophecy do we forfeit when we violate this Bible principle? How many things would God do for us in our generation if we would learn His ways? How much will slide to the following generation for fulfillment? Let’s learn God’s ways so we can fulfill His prophecies.

SUNDAY, May 4

Scripture: Matthew 12:14-21

Verse 18 promises God will put His Spirit on a chosen vessel and the result will be a declaration of judgment to the Gentiles and because of that judgment they will come into the kingdom. Our first question then becomes, “What is that judgment? What judgment could be so great as to release people to come into the kingdom?” Perhaps the judgment here brought to victory is one aimed at those who tried to kill Jesus. Who was it that tried to kill Jesus? Verse 14 tells us it was the Pharisees. One of the things we can all pretty much agree on is the fact pharisaism is primarily a spirit seeking to captivate religious people and make them ineffective in the kingdom while believing they are doing God’s work. Through the spirit of pharisaism the enemy captures and neutralizes major segments of the Church to the point they end up fighting the very One they claim to represent. There is no meaner nor abhorrent spirit loose in the world that we war against than the spirit of pharisaism!

MONDAY, May 5

Scripture: Matthew 12:1-8

In the first eight verses of Matthew 12 we begin to look at the essentials of what makes pharisaism. The ultimate issue in facing and recognizing the spirit of pharisaism is a choice over the **Lordship** of Christ. Verse 8 says, “For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” When Jesus is Lord there is a spontaneous freedom which flavors our lives. As the spirit of pharisaism progressively captures an individual, spontaneity steadily diminishes until relationship is rule and regulation based. A very present example is found in the admonition “Let all things be done decently and in order.” Whose definition of order shall we use? All of us agree Ephesians 4 documents five different offices God has chosen to bless people and bring them into the full measure of the stature of Jesus Christ. One of those offices is the office of the Prophet. There were times when God told His prophets to do things which absolutely violated the current core principle of church custom, “everything should be done decently and in order.” In Isaiah 20 God told Isaiah to go naked for three years as a sign to Israel of the coming judgment. Ezekiel was told to bake his food over dung in the sight of Israel. For everyone who has barbecued, you know how much flavor food absorbs when cooking on charcoal. Just imagine the flavor of Ezekiel’s food during that season. Are we free to choose what’s “decent and in order” or do we have to yield to God? The answer to that question may be a good yardstick for measuring pharisaism.

TUESDAY, May 6

Scripture: Matthew 12:1-2

The spirit of pharisaism, portrayed by Matthew, is 100% law based. It refused to allow the spontaneity which comes from true relationship. A Pharisee does not relate to God through personal interaction. He relates to God through law, rule, or custom. In the eyes of the Pharisee if you keep all the customs and behave properly, you’re a good Christian. If, however, you fall on the floor and begin to roar like a lion, you absolutely need deliverance and are unwelcomed in their presence until you have been transformed. Tradition reigns in pharisaism and all who violate the law are ostracized.

WEDNESDAY, May 7

Scripture: Matthew 12:1-4

In verses 3 and 4 Jesus points out the problem with having a law-rule based relationship with God. Jesus made it very clear what the problem was. He said, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: ‘how he entered the house of God ate the shewbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?’” Jesus said the main problem with pharisaism is the law doesn’t always apply. If we make the law always apply, but God does not always make it apply, then we find ourselves in direct opposition to Father applying a stricter standard than He does. When we apply a standard God does not apply, are we for Him or against Him at that point?

THURSDAY, May 8

Scripture: Matthew 12:5

Jesus said here is another example of how law and custom don’t apply. No one is suppose to work on the Sabbath because it is the day of rest, but what do the Priests do on the Sabbath? They have their busiest day of the week. Does God hold them guilty? The answer to Jesus question is obvious. Since we live in a different dispensation, how does this affect us? It points to the principles, that when embraced, guarantee freedom and blessing. It also outlines the judgment and sin when we violate these principles and chose law, rule or custom. When we study the fruit of pharisaism there is only one conclusion to make. The pharisaical spirit produces the worse persecution the Church has ever endured. Are we about to see another wave?

FRIDAY, May 9

Scripture: Matthew 12:6-7

The fruit of pharisaism should cause us to whence and cry for grace and mercy. Jesus said in verses 6 and 7, “But I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple. But if you have known what this means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless”” Because Pharisees relate to God by law and rule, they apply law and rule when God doesn’t. The result of applying a measure or yardstick God doesn’t apply is we condemn those who are guiltless. I can’t think of anything more dangerous in Scripture than condemning the guiltless. When we fail to extend mercy we guarantee a merciless judgment for ourselves.

SATURDAY, May 10

Scripture: Matthew 12:8

Jesus said, “For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” The whole goal of pharisaism is taking a committed person down the pathway to destruction by divorcing them in relationship from the Lord and substituting rules, regulations, and laws. The end result is a forfeiture of the Lordship of Jesus. We become law formula based - not relationship based. We condemn the guiltless while law, rule, and formula become Lord instead of God. The end result of pharisaism is forfeiture of the Lordship of Christ while receiving a substitute which defiles, destroys, damages and incarcerates for eternal disaster! The choice is ours.

SUNDAY, May 11

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY

Scripture: John 8:1-9

In John 8:1-9 we see the typical pharisaical response. Because pharisaism only functions and operates by law, and violators of law must be identified and marked, instead of mercy and redemption, they receive judgment. Jesus undoubtedly demonstrated the other side of the principle to them, probably in what He wrote on the ground. Jesus said, “Let him who is without sin throw the first stone.” Verse 9 is very important in the progression of what happened here, when it says, “...being convicted [and the Greek word there is **el-eng-kho**] by their

conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last.” **El-eng-kho** is the confrontation of an individual with their sin, with authority and a power that grips the heart, causing them to acknowledge their sin and turn as a result. Jesus moved in an anointing which brought conviction, a turn, a recognition, and transformation. He gave them a taste of the spiritual principles they were setting in motion which would come back to judge their very lives. When they realized what Jesus was saying, they turned around and walked away refusing to judge the woman. Pharisaism leads us to judge other people, not realizing the spiritual principles we’re setting in motion which will come back upon our own heads.

MONDAY, May 12

Scripture: John 8:10-11

In John 8:10-11 we see the heart God is after for us to extend to people in the world. The problem with pharisaism in the Church is it binds and deceives us to the place we are incapable of demonstrating the full measure of God’s heart. John 8:10-11 says, “When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, ‘Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?’ She said, ‘No one, Lord.’ And Jesus said to her, ‘Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.’” Jesus brings redemption and restoration to the woman while the Pharisees brought judgment. God wants a harvest from the earth. One segment of that harvest are homosexuals and lesbians. Which approach will we take?

TUESDAY, May 13

Scripture: John 8:12-14a

Another problem with pharisaism is it blinds us to spiritual origins. Verse 14 says, “Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from....’” Pharisaism blinds us to spiritual origin. We can neither tell the origin of an individual or a move of God when the spirit of pharisaism has captivated our lives. The Pharisees stood against the very one they claimed to represent because they could not discern His spiritual origin. When God comes in a wave of the Spirit today, can we discern the spiritual origin - whether it is God or not? Whether we embrace a move of the Spirit depends on how we discern and judge it. But if the spirit of pharisaism has roots in our lives, we are incapable of judging the origin of a move of God. If you have trouble with that concept, just turn on your radio or Christian TV.

WEDNESDAY, May 14

Scripture: Matthew 12:22-24

Matthew 12:22-24 is a perfect example of the teaching in verse 18-21 and the necessity of bringing judgment to victory. They brought to Jesus one who was demon-possessed, blind and mute. Jesus healed him so that the man both spoke and saw. Now the unbelieving multitude was amazed and they all said, “Could this be the Son of David?” When Jewish people say, “Could this be the Son of David?” they are saying, “This looks like Messiah.” But in verse 24 when the Pharisees heard it they said, “This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.” The people discerned the spiritual origin of Jesus and the Pharisees missed it. The spirit of pharisaism absolutely blinds us to the ability of discerning spiritual origin, and in the process we reject the very thing God sends to us for our blessing. How many things have we rejected because we misjudged them?

THURSDAY, May 15

Scripture: Matthew 12:7

The blindness of pharisaism causes us to condemn and judge the guiltless. Jesus was guiltless. We need to be very careful about what we condemn. Perhaps we need to study that word translated “condemnation”, because it become a very sign of pharisaism, a blinking neon light that advertises the condition of heart. The Greek word is **kat-ad-ik-ad-zo**. **Kata** means to be against. So if we stopped there we would say you could tell where somebody’s at by what they choose to stand against when it comes to the Church. If God sends a Charismatic Wave, Faith Wave or Toronto Blessing and we judge it “not decent nor in order,” we are in danger of condemning the guiltless. If God sends a wave of His Spirit and all we do is stand against it, our pharisaism is broadcast for all to see!

FRIDAY, May 16

Scripture: Matthew 12:7-8

Standing against is only half of the Greek word translated “condemnation” in verse 7. The other half is **dee-kay** which came to mean custom. So the full picture of the word is that we make a sentence or judgment based on violation of custom. Historically when God comes to do something new, He invariably violates the custom established in the previous outpouring. When the Pentecostals received the Holy Spirit in the early 1900’s they had to wait, tarry and pray. When God poured it out on the Charismatics they got wet without asking. The Pentecostals had great difficulty understanding how anything that came so freely, without seeking or waiting, could really be God. The issue of how God chose to fill His people with the Spirit during the Charismatic Renewal violated custom established when He restored in the early 1900’s. Therefore, the Pentecostals initially judged the Charismatic Renewal as “not God!” How many times do we have to repeat this scenario, in one aspect of Christianity or another, before we begin to recognize the root? We may have more pharisaism than we ever thought.

SATURDAY, May 17

Scripture: Matthew 12:23-25

From the demonic view, the spirit of pharisaism militarily is a tactical move of genius because of what it initiates in the believer. Because it blinds to spiritual origin and therefore leads one to condemn the guiltless, it results in accomplishing a primary military principle. Jesus declared it in verse 25, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.” The end result of pharisaism is a progression ultimately dividing the Lord’s army. Is the Body of Christ divided right now by judging a move of the Spirit? Is it divided over the prophetic? Is it divided over five-fold ministry? Is it divided over tongues and the gifts of the Spirit? Why are the military tactics of the devil so successful? Are God’s people really destroyed for lack of knowledge, or is there a refusal to accept knowledge when it comes?

SUNDAY, May 18

Scripture: Matthew 12:25-27

Once the enemy has our house divided, our captivity is assured. Jesus said in verse 26, “And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?” What Jesus said of Satan’s kingdom is also a principle which governs the degree of the kingdom of God we participate in. Can we stand - divided? But the story doesn’t end with Christian impotence resulting from division. Jesus said in verse 27, “And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.” Verse 27 is a statement from God Himself that when a generation bound by pharisaism refuses to recognize spiritual origin and condemns a move of God, He is committed to bringing their children into the

dimension they rejected, and therefore the children will stand in judgment over their parents having accepted and received the promise God intended for their parents. Jesus undoubtedly makes that statement based on God's dealing with the generation He brought out of Egypt. Pharisaism results in forfeiture of the generational call God has for us. It is time we recognized the enemy's tactics and took a stand.

MONDAY, May 19

Scripture: II Corinthians 3:1-6

The end result of the spirit of pharisaism is entrenchment in judging by letter, rule, regulation, or law. The problem is: the letter kills! In verse 7 it's called the "...ministry of death written and engraved on stones..." Will we live our lives as people of the letter governed by custom, or will we get into relationship with God and allow Him to change the rules whenever He comes in a new dimension, flowing with Him, judging based on relationship rather than law. If we can transition, we can avoid division and make a real dent in the kingdom of darkness. That's God's call for our generation and we need to step up to the plate.

TUESDAY, May 20

Scripture: II Corinthians 3:1-7

When God sends glory in a wave of the Spirit, over the ten or twenty years it washes the Body we develop rules, and customs for facilitating that move of God. Just as we get comfortable, God comes in a new dimension and all the rules change. God wants us to move in the Spirit and not by the letter. A church so moved becomes a dividing line for judgment, just like Jesus. Joshua and Caleb, by embracing the things of God, became a line of demarcation in their generation. They were a witness to the others of their generation who died while Joshua and Caleb entered the promised land with the oldest sons and daughters of those who rejected God's purpose and plan because they did not understand His ways. Isn't God calling us to learn His ways and to recognize the ways of the enemy? In the process of learning how our enemy operates, we receive God's training and move into the realm He has ordained for our blessing, preparation, and fulfillment. We need to declare war against the spirit of pharisaism within the ranks of the Body of Christ.

WEDNESDAY, May 21

Scripture: John 8:14-16

Misjudging spiritual origin is not the only issue the spirit of pharisaism presents us. The latter half of verse 14 shows us the second step attached to origin. Verse 14 says, "Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going." If the spirit of pharisaism blinds us to spiritual origin, it therefore also blinds us to future direction because we are judging by rule, regulation, and law VS relationship and leadership of the Spirit. Because they could not recognize His origin, they could not receive direction for the future. The captivity and incarceration executed by the spirit of pharisaism is criminal and destructive to the Body of Christ. Isn't it time we took a stand against this spirit?

THURSDAY, May 22

Scripture: John 5:22-24

Jesus Himself became a line of demarcation for judgment. By flowing in the Spirit He presented a challenge to the Church of His day. And in the process of obeying the leadership of the Father, judgment was committed into His hands. Those who rejected Him did not honor Him because they did not discern His origin. When we do not discern the origin of what God sends, we do not honor Him, and we turn away from the very thing intended for our blessing. Nor do we qualify for becoming a channel of divine judgment in the earth. We will either become a channel of judgment or an object of judgment based on how we respond to what God sends

in it's appointed season. Will we embrace Him or will we miss Him? Will we receive Him or will we reject Him? Which spirit are we of?

FRIDAY, May 23

Scripture: John 5:25-27

When we embrace the Holy Spirit and move with what God sends us, the dead hear and life comes. The Father transfers the life of the Spirit into us and with it comes a new flow of divine authority manifesting itself in judgment. God intended the Body of Christ to be both a life-line and dispenser of judgment. The dispensed judgment becomes a border or boundary. The church offers light and those who reject it receive judgment becoming a line of demarcation. Like Abraham, whose covenantal promise was "Those who bless you, I will bless, and those who curse, I will curse" we also qualify for that position when we receive the move of God and extend it within the borders and boundaries of our gifting and calling. Where do we stand in the flow of God's Spirit?

SATURDAY, May 24

Scripture: John 5:28-30

Another sin of pharisaism is revealed in verse 30. Jesus said, "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me." The spirit of pharisaism leads us to judge things presumptuously. We presume something is not God because it violates the pattern of our custom and therefore we stand against it. So we forfeit the life of God by acting presumptuously. We judge something "not God" that "is God." And we find ourselves in a world of hurt. We need to fall on our face and ask God to deliver us from the spirit of pharisaism.

SUNDAY, May 25

Scripture: Matthew 12:18-21

The question from Matthew 12:18-21 is "What judgment did Jesus have to take to victory in order for the Gentiles to come in?" Verse 18 says the declaring of that judgment to the Gentiles by the Holy Spirit results in, verse 21, the Gentiles trusting in His name. When God takes this judgment to victory, it releases a great harvest in the earth. We need to ask ourselves, "Who tried to kill Jesus?" Answer: The spirit of pharisaism. Jesus would not quarrel or cry out, but that is about all the Pharisees could do in His presence. The statement, "Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets" refers to the issue of self-promotion and ministry-building. Satan offered such a temptation to make a dramatic display from the pinnacle of the Temple, but Jesus refused. "A bruised reed He will not break...." The Pharisees added more burdens to those already bruised. What little fire was left in the lives of people they put out! Will God ever take judgment to victory in us?

MONDAY, May 26

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY

Scripture: Matthew 26:57-61

The spirit of pharisaism preserves it's own kingdom at all costs. Rather than yielding to the kingdom of God, it judges, fights, resists, rebukes, and attempts to destroy in order to preserve it's own kingdom. The spirit of pharisaism in the presence of a new move of God always degenerates into total forfeiture of integrity. If we understood that, we would know the people on the radio who condemn the most probably have the most real reason to be condemned. Why participate in their judgment?

TUESDAY, May 27

Scripture: Matthew 16:5-12

Jesus said to His disciples in verse 6, “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” They thought He was rebuking them because they did not bring bread on their trip. Jesus warned very clearly about the destructive potential of being leavened by Pharisees. What happens when we are leavened by Pharisees? We lose our ability to discern origin and direction. We begin to relate to God based on rule and regulation and not on His voice through intimacy. We ultimately reject and condemn God Himself when He comes to us in a way we do not discern. How much pharisaical leaven do you suppose we have within us? Is Jesus really committed to taking this judgment to victory?

WEDNESDAY, May 28

Scripture: Matthew 26:62-64

The leaders of the Pharisees are locked in nose-to-nose confrontation with Jesus over one issue: “What is Your origin? Who sent You? Where did You come from? Who are You? By what spirit do You speak?” If they accept Him as God, they have to repent and change. If they can assassinate His character they don’t have to change and their kingdom is safe. How many personal kingdom’s will we preserve by rejecting the presence of God?

THURSDAY, May 29

Scripture: Matthew 26:62-65

The answer of Jesus in verse 64 speaks volumes about recognizing the Spirit of God when He comes to us. It also speaks volumes about what happens when God takes judgment to victory in our behalf. In verse 64 He says, “...hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the **Power**, and coming on the clouds of heaven.” When God takes judgment to victory it releases a wave of **dunamis** that comes to us right out of heaven. The benefit in Acts 2 which came to the Church from the judgment taken to victory was an outpouring of the Holy Spirit whose waves are still washing ashore over the Church while some are receiving and others are rejecting. This was not a one-time event. It was also a pattern for birthing moves of God.

FRIDAY, May 30

Scripture: Acts 2:29-39

The Holy Spirit was poured out to us as a victory of the judgment of pharisaism. They rejected Jesus and crucified Him. But in the process, the judgment demanded justice and gave God the right to pour out the Holy Spirit to Gentiles and multiply what was previously sent but rejected by the Church. The birthing of the Holy Spirit had a judgment - the judgment was the fulfilling of a Davidic prophecy. Acts 2:34 says, “For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”’” The judgment of pharisaism enables God to pour out His Spirit and move us closer to making our enemies our footstool. Seven times in the New Testament we are given that promise and God will continue to birth moves of the Spirit for the Church to fulfill prophecy until we wind up the age and have the full measure of harvest God promised. It is a pattern the Church lives out with every new move of the Spirit.

SATURDAY, May 31

Scripture: I Corinthians 2:13-15

What is the issue of judging the spirit of pharisaism within the Church? It is the issue of separating the spiritual and the natural. “...the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” Every time God pours out a

new move of the Spirit, we are tested once again on the degree to which we are moving in the spiritual or leaning on the wisdom of the flesh. Our choices become a blinking neon sign to all of eternity about our walk with God. We either have it and keep the relationship which gives us wisdom, understanding, and the ability to accurately discern, or we lean on the flesh and misjudge the move of the Spirit. Which place are we in?

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In honor of Ellen Flotho who served gloriously and has gone to her reward.

ETERNITY

Someday the struggles will be done.
Christ Jesus waiting there for me.
What joy to enter heaven’s rest!
God’s presence sweet! Eternity!

**Lord, give me courage,
One more day,
To face whatever,
Comes my way.**

**And may I shine,
With love for You,
In spite of what,
I’m going through.**

**Above all else,
May others see,
That Jesus truly,
Lives in me.**

-Jayne Houghton-

He Carried Your Sorrow

When waves of oppression tumble down on you,
and are pounding like surf on the sand;
He hasn't left nor abandoned you.
You're still there, in the palm of His hand.

When a blow of confusion has hit you,
like a rug pulled from under your feet;
He speaks in assurance to steady you;
the Voice that you hear will be sweet.

When crushed in your spirit and wounded,
He touches and heals every bruise.
He carries and lifts you so gently;
with His oil of healing, He soothes.

When you have been hammered or smitten,
He patches the holes in your wall.
He fills in the cracks and the crevices;
and catches you if you should fall.

When shadows and grief fall upon you,
as the rain from the heavens above;
heaviness, woes and affliction,
are driven away by His love.

When your eyes have grown weary with crying,
and you look through the fog and the haze;
when you're covered in sackcloth and ashes,
He gives you a garment of praise.

When you're hurting, He comes with compassion.
He carries your pain, when you call.
Though afflictions of the righteous are many,
He delivers you out of them all.

When men are unfaithful and fail you,
when they injure with words that aren't true;
with arms full of strength He will comfort.
He carried your sorrow for you.

Terri Hill