



Come Unto Me



"Woe unto You, ... Hypocrites"

Lesson 20

Matthew 21–23; John 12:1–8

1. Mary anoints Jesus' feet. (John 12:1–8.)

- Mary anointed the Lord's feet to show her love for him. How do we show our love for the Lord?
- Mary's actions were criticized by Judas. What did he say should have been done with the ointment? (See John 12:4–5.)
- How was Judas a hypocrite? (See John 12:6.)

2. Jesus makes a triumphal entry into Jerusalem. (21:1–11, John 12:17–18), (Zechariah 9:9)

- What impresses you about the account of Jesus riding humbly yet triumphantly into Jerusalem?
- How do you think you would have felt if you had been there that day?
- In what ways do people misunderstand or reject the Savior today?
- How can we more fully accept and welcome him into our lives?

3. Jesus gives the parable of the two sons and the parable of the householder. (Matthew 21:23–46.)

- In the parable of the two sons, how did the first son prove to be more obedient than the second son? (See Matthew 21:28–30.)
- How did Jesus apply this parable to his listeners? (See Matthew 21:31–32; JST Matthew 21:32 in footnote 32d.)
- How were the publicans and harlots like the first son?
- How were the chief priests and elders like the second son?
- How was the second son a hypocrite?
- What promises have we made to the Lord?
- How are we sometimes like the second son?
- How can we strengthen our commitment to the Lord?
- How can we help each other keep the promises we have made to the Lord?
- In the parable of the householder (Matthew 21:33–41), **Who is represented by the householder, or lord of the vineyard?**
- **By the husbandmen?**

- **By the servants?**
- **By the son killed by the husbandmen?**
- How were the Jewish religious leaders like the husbandmen?
- What did the chief priests and elders acknowledge would happen to the husbandmen when the lord of the vineyard came? (See Matthew 21:41.)

- **Who was "the stone which the builders rejected"?** (See Matthew 21:42; Acts 4:10–12.)

• **Who were the builders?**

- **What did Jesus say would happen to the builders who rejected the cornerstone?** (See Matthew 21:43–44.)

- How might Jesus' words in verse 43 apply to us?

- How did the chief priests and Pharisees respond when they realized that Jesus was speaking about them in these parables? (See Matthew 21:45–46.) (**JST Matt 21:47–56**)

- **How can we overcome any pride or indignation we may feel when we are called to repent?**

4. The scribes and Pharisees try to trap Jesus. (Matthew 22:15–46.)

- How did the Pharisees **first** try to trap Jesus? (See Matthew 22:15–17.)
- What did Jesus perceive about his questioners? (See Matthew 22:18.)
- How did Jesus answer the question? (See Matthew 22:19–21.)
- How can this answer guide us in giving allegiance to God and to earthly governments? (See also Articles of Faith 1:12.)
- How did the Sadducees try to trap Jesus? (See Matthew 22:23–28.)
- How were the Sadducees hypocritical in their question? (See Matthew 22:23.)
- How did Jesus answer their question? (See Matthew 22:29–30.)
- What was the **third** attempt to trap Jesus? (See Matthew 22:34–36.)
- How did Jesus' response resolve this question? (See Matthew 22:37–40.)
- Why do you think these two great commandments are so

important?

- What can we do to more fully live these commandments?

5. Jesus condemns the sin of hypocrisy. (Matthew 23.)

- The scribes and Pharisees paid tithing, gave to the poor, attended worship services, and went regularly to the temple. What caused the Lord to condemn them? (See Matthew 23:5, 14, 23–28.)
- What "**weightier matters**" did the Lord say they had omitted? (Matthew 23:23.)
- How can we ensure that we do not omit these "**weightier matters**" in our own lives?
- How might we as Church members sometimes be hypocrites?
- What can we do to avoid hypocrisy?
- **Silently consider these questions:** Am I paying tithing, giving to the poor, attending my meetings, and serving others for my own glory or for the glory of God? In all my actions, do I seek to draw closer to my Father in Heaven and Jesus Christ?

6. Jesus curses a barren fig tree, a symbol of hypocrisy (Matthew 21:17–22.)

- What did Jesus do when he found that the tree had many leaves but no fruit? (See Matthew 21:19.)
- How was the fig tree like a hypocrite?

7. "They loved the praise of men" (John 12:43)

- John recorded that many people who believed in Jesus would not admit to their belief because "they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:42–43). **How do we sometimes become too concerned with receiving "the praise of men"?**
- What are the consequences of seeking "the praise of men"?
- How can we overcome the desire to seek praise and recognition from others? (See D&C 82:19; 88:67.)

Challenge

Examine your lives for hypocrisy and seek to eliminate it. Testify that a sincere desire to serve and obey Jesus Christ, motivated by love for and faith in him, will bring us closer to him and increase our love and faith.

NEXT WEEK Lesson 21: "What Is the Sign of Thy Coming?"

Joseph Smith—Matthew (Matthew 24)

- What sign of the Savior's Second Coming is described in Joseph Smith—Matthew 1:22? What evidence do you see that this prophecy is being fulfilled? How can we avoid being deceived by false prophets? (See Matthew 7:15–20; D&C 45:57; 46:7–8.)
- The Lord taught that we should "be not troubled" by wars and rumors of war (Joseph Smith—Matthew 1:23). How can we find peace during such troubled times? (See 1 John 4:16–18; D&C 6:34–36; 45:34–35; 59:23.)
- The Lord told his followers in Jerusalem to "stand in the holy place" (Joseph Smith—Matthew 1:12), and he has given similar counsel in our day (D&C 87:8; 101:22). What are some holy places in which we should stand?

Scripture Chain: Signs of the Second Coming

Isaiah 2:2–3, J S-Matt 1:21–37, Daniel 2:44, D&C 45:16–35