

A New and Living Way! Part 1: "A Life of Action!"

The Church is at its best when it's ALL-IN! Living out the life God had planned! Jesus didn't come to teach us the Bible... But to show us the Father... and the "new and living way" He had planned!

Clearing the air... When Jesus arrived on the scene... There were men who had taken "the way to live" and turned it into "a body of truth" to be held. Knowing about God is always easier than knowing God! And it's what man does when the relationship and responsibility get too great for them to "manage!" There comes a point when God gets so real, so big, that we go all in or package Him up!

These men were known as the Scribes and Pharisees... Instead of being word-charged, workers of righteousness... "Woeful," soft, blind, hypocrites!

Scribes and Pharisees... People who say one thing and do another... **Mt23.3** Bind others with heavy burdens that they don't lift (live) themselves... **v4** Love to be in the spotlight and honored (pampered) and hear their names called with their titles... **v5-10** They reverse the servant model to exalt themselves only to be brought down in shame! **v11,12** They hinder themselves and others from entering into kingdom life! **v13** They steal by guile and do/will receive condemnation for it! **v14** They share their lifestyles and make their protégé's twice as bad! **v15** They are fools, and blind! **v16-22** They do the legal minimums to "benefit" themselves and withhold doing right by others! **v23,24** They are hypocrites, ravenous thieves, whitewashed grave sites, made up zombies filled with uncleanness and sin! **v25-28** Murderous serpents, doomed to desolation! **v29-39** Honor God with their lips but their hearts are far away! **Mk 7.1-6** They worship in vain, teaching the commandments of men as truth! **V7-9** They make the word of God ineffectual by supplanting it with their traditions! **v10-13** They have taken away the key of knowledge because they ceased living it themselves! **Lk 11.52** And instead of repenting they rebel, waiting for the opportunity to annul His truth! **v53,54**

Clearing the air... They could recite the Bible stories... But used "searching the scriptures" as a replacement for the "living way!" Jesus: "Search the scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me. And you will not come to Me, that you might have life." **John 5.39,40**

Jesus came to renew the "living way" God had planned... Which was walking with, walking like, Jesus... according to the will of God!

Hebrews 10.1-25 "The law had a shadow of good things *to come* but the sacrifices for sin could not take away our sins and iniquities... Then Jesus came to do the will of God and make a final offering for sin that satisfied the debt with God, one that He was pleased with – the offering of His body – sanctifying us once for all time... and after He made His offering, He sat down at the right hand of God to wait until His enemies are subdued by a fully released company of sanctified people, brought forward to completion by the laws of God written on their hearts on their minds. With their sins and iniquities remembered no more, these people have boldness to draw near to a Holy God by the new and living (life) way that He opened by His sacrifice. So now, having this High Priest, let us draw near with full assurance of faith, cleansed with pure water from an evil conscience... Let us hold down the profession of our faith without "leaning" (because God who promised is faithful), and let us fully observe one another and incite one another to love and benevolence and virtuous, valuable and valorous good works... not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another as Jesus makes His approach...

Jesus came to renew the "living way" God had planned... which is a life of action!

Jesus... In 35 miracles He demonstrated the mind/heart of the Father to trust... Miracles of healing/resurrection! Miracles over nature/natural order: Walking on water, stilling storms, water to wine, fish and loaves, fishing... Miracle deliverances of people from demon powers/control! **With 215 topics He touched the issues of day-to-day living and excelling...** Abraham to Zeal!

In His 31 parables He showed us God's kingdom for relational adjusting... Debtors and sowers of seeds, of weeds and leaven, buried treasure, big pearls, and tiny seeds, of good Samaritans and rich fools, of lost things found and people forever lost, of unjust stewards and unprofitable servants, of harvests and weddings and talents and pounds! **In 20 discourses He came to show us the way to live/act/teach...** Jesus came to tell us about... The reality and need of the new birth! **John 3.1-21** The Living Water that quenches the thirst of the world! **J4.4-26** His unique, and shared, relationship with the Father! **J5.17-47** His values (blessed are...), His people (salt and light), His step-ups (You have heard, but I say...) **Matthew 5** How we give, pray, fast, categorize money and possessions, strive for material goods, and the superiority of the provision of God... **Matthew 6** Judging, asking, the straight and narrow way, being judged for our fruit, and doing what He says... **Matthew 7** Coming to the Father thru the Son! **Matt 11.25ff** Him being the bread of Life! **J6.22-71** The hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees! **Mark 7.1-23** Humility and forgiveness! **Matt 18, Mk 9.33-50, Luke 9.46-50** Himself as the Light of the world! **John 8.12-30** Spiritual freedom... **J8.31-59** The good Shepherd! **J10.1-21** Prayer and receiving the Holy Spirit! **Luke 11.1-13** The woes of legalists! **Lk 11.37-54** Trusting in God, standing up for God, *foolishly* storing up your money w/o considering God, working faithfully to the end! **Luke 12** The coming kingdom! **Lk 17.20-18.8** Further judgment on the legalists! **Mt23.1-39, Mk 12.38-40, Lk 20.45-47** How to live for His return at the end of the age! **Mt24-25, Mk 13, Lk 21.5-38** Himself as the Way, Truth and Life! **J14** Himself as the Vine and us as the fruit bearing branches! **J15** His departure and Return! **J16**

Jesus came to give us the "living way" God had planned! He used the scriptures to show us who He was... and then modeled the life for us to follow! The OT proved we needed a new way... the NT is the record of those who lost and found it!

Finding our way... Reading and studying with renewed intentionality to act... To define, refine, realign with God's will! **Drinking in deeply the Word of God...** But refusing to let it become mere knowledge to store and categorize! **Walking in the light (literally) of His words that light our paths!** His word is a lamp "for our feet" not a "book light for our mind!"