



A just weight  
and balance

are the  
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- As we begin our study of Acts 25-26 we want to notice The Enlightened, and the The Unenlightened.

- SOMETIMES THE BLACKEST DEEDS LIE AT THE DOOR OF THE ENLIGHTENED.
- Who was more enlightened than the Jews?
  - Who had the fullest opportunity of knowing the truth?
    - Who had revelation by God's prophets?
  - Yet we find them endeavoring to assassinate Paul.
  - They pleaded for justice, but they mean murder.

- We find them fiercely preferring charges which they could not prove.
- And demanding judgment against him when no crime had been established.
  - Men that would shudder at the slightest omission of the Law,  
dare to commit murder.
  - They were neither the first nor the last to make this fatal mistake

# Woes to the Pharisees and Lawyers

## Luke 11:37

When Jesus finished speaking,  
a Pharisee invited him to eat with him;  
so he went in and sat down to eat.

11:38 The Pharisee was surprised  
when he noticed that Jesus  
had not washed before eating.

11:39 So the Lord said to him,  
"Now then, you Pharisees  
clean the outside of your cup and plate,  
but inside you are full of violence and evil."

# I Never Knew You

## Matthew 7:21

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord,  
shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;  
but he that doeth the will of my Father  
which is in heaven.

7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord,  
have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy  
name have cast out devils?

and in thy name done many wonderful works?

7:23 And then will I profess unto them,  
I never knew you: depart from me,  
ye that work iniquity.

- There have been,  
and are many souls  
who recon themselves  
**to be most holy.**
- At whose door lie  
**the most serious sins,**
- Who are living lives  
**utterly evil in God's sight,**
- And who will  
awake to  
**condemnation at the last hour.**

- SOMETIMES THE UNENLIGHTENED EXHIBIT ADMIRABLE VIRTUES.

- The Roman had far less favored than the Jew in the matter of religious privilege.

- They had not "the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11)

- Not to them had Psalmists sung and prophets prophesied.

- Yet we find the Romans exhibiting greater respect for law.

- We find Festus desiring to "do the Jews a pleasure" (**Acts 25:9**).

- What governor would not?

- But he did not commit any injustice in order to do so.

- And on other occasions he could have yield to pressure but did not do so.

- And how do we find Paul?
  - Meek and patience.
  - Seeking no desire of revenge against his enemies,
    - No anger against his unrighteous judges,
    - No impatience at so long a trial;
  - But calm submission to Roman law,
  - And confident trust in Divine protection.

- What a long life  
hatred has!
- Two years have elapsed,  
but the fury of the Jews  
had not cooled.
- We leave some things to time,
  - Calling it  
"Time heals all."
  - But time  
cannot put hell out!

- Well might the apostle warn the Churches against **"bitterness"**

- **Hebrews 12:14**

**Follow peace with all *men*,  
and holiness,.....**

**lest any root of bitterness  
springing up trouble *you*,  
and thereby many be defiled;**

- **Deuteronomy 29:18**

**“Lest there should be among you  
a root that beareth  
gall and wormwood.”**

- It is this  
“root”  
which the Devil  
has cultivated
- Religious hatred  
is among the worst.
- It is this to blame  
for the little progress  
Christianity has made  
in the world.

- **Paul's Defense Before Agrippa**

- **Acts 26:1**

**Then Agrippa said unto  
Paul,  
Thou art permitted  
to speak for thyself.**

- Remember Paul stands before the man whose great-grandfather had tried to kill Jesus as a baby;
  - His grandfather had John the Baptist beheaded;
  - His father had martyred the first apostle, James.
    - This was a man whose family history made him unlikely to receive Paul warmly!

- **In Acts 26:4-11**

- Paul describes his life before his conversion.

- He describes his

**“bitterness”**

For those of

**“The Way”**.

• Act 26:9

I verily thought with myself,  
that I ought to do many things contrary  
to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

26:10 Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and  
many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having  
received authority from the chief priests; and  
when they were put to death,  
I gave my voice against *them*.

26:11 And I punished them oft in every  
synagogue, and compelled *them* to blaspheme;  
and being exceedingly mad against them, I  
persecuted *them* even unto strange cities.

- **Paul, you are beside yourself!**  
**Much learning is driving you mad!**  
**(Acts 26:24)**

- The gospel,  
when properly presented,  
**will make some people think**  
**you are crazy.**

- Paul put it this way:  
**the message of the cross**  
**is foolishness to**  
**those who are perishing**  
**(1 Corinthians 1:18).**

- **I am not mad, most noble Festus,  
but speak the words of  
truth and reason:  
(**Acts 26:25**)**
- Because it was based  
on historical events
- Such as the crucifixion  
and resurrection of Jesus,
  - Things which were  
not done in a corner,  
but open to examination.  
(**Acts 26:26**)

- Agrippa knew,  
in a general way,  
about the:
  - Prophets,
  - The Jewish religion,
  - death and resurrection  
of Jesus Christ.

- Paul's assumption that King Agrippa knew would have been very quickly repudiated if it had not been based upon fact.

- **Act 26:27**

**King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.**

- **26:28** **Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.**

- Paul then brought the challenge home **with a shot to the heart:**

- **Do you believe?**

- **Superficial knowledge**  
is the enemy of  
accurate knowledge.
  - It is wisdom
    - **“To know  
what we do not know”**
  - The human mind  
is preoccupied with  
**vague images**  
**and imperfect knowledge.**

- One may fancy they know it all.
- And one may know a great deal.
- But, have they ever admitted their own sinfulness and helplessness.

- What in fact is a Christian?
- What had Agrippa almost become?
  - Acts 26:18 describes five things that happened to Paul when he became a Christian.

- **# 1** A Christian has their eyes opened.
  - **# 2** A Christian has turned from darkness to light.
  - **# 3** A Christian has turned from the power of Satan to God.
  - **# 4** A Christian has received forgiveness of sins.
- **# 5** An inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven.  
(**1 Peter 1:4**)

- We have here the example of a proud man indignantly recoiling from submission.
- The gospel insists on dealing with everybody in the same fashion, and regarding all as standing on the same level.

- Will King Agrippa admit to being saved by depending upon another?

- After all he is the king.

- And another thing **stands in the way:**
- The gospel insists upon **absolute obedience** to another King (Jesus Christ).
- Is it beyond measure that the King **becomes a servant?**

- Paul you may preach on toothless generalities but don't intrude in my life.
- Sadly, we have here an example of a soul close to the light but remaining in the dark.

- Agrippa listens to Paul;
- Bernice listens to Paul;
  - Festus listens.
- And what comes of it?
  - Only this,

**"And when they were gone aside they talked between themselves, saying, This man hath done nothing worthy of death or of bonds."**

- Agrippa and Bernice  
went their wicked way,

- And Festus  
went his,

- And none knew  
what a fateful moment  
they had passed by.

- **What stopped Agrippa from becoming a Christian?**

- One answer is the person sitting next to him - **Bernice.**

- She was a sinful, immoral companion, and he may have rightly realized that becoming a Christian **would mean losing her and his other immoral friends.**

- He was unwilling **to make that sacrifice!**

- And then there was Festus.

(**Acts 26:24**)

- A man's man,
- A man who thought Paul was crazy.
- Perhaps Agrippa thought, "I can't become a Christian! Festus will think I'm crazy too!"
- And because he wanted the praise of men, he rejected Jesus.

- In front of Agrippa is Paul
  - A strong man,
  - A noble man,
- A man of wisdom and character
  - But a man in chains.
    - Does Agrippa say,  
"Well, if I became a Christian,  
I might end up in chains like Paul!

- Lamentations 1:12

*Is it nothing to you,  
all ye that pass by?*

- There are scorners and scoffers now,  
as in the times of old.
  - All who live  
degenerate and wicked lives;
  - All who deliberately indulge  
in fleshly lusts
  - All who cherish  
some secret sin  
and will not give it up;

- All such  
"pass by";
- For they are  
determined  
to commit sin,
- They cannot find  
any pleasure  
in their wickedness  
except as they banish Him  
from their thoughts;  
and so they  
"pass by."

- Listening to the voice of pleasure, they wander off,
- Some in one direction, some in another, in quest of new delights and fresh excitements.
- Often within reach of the Cross, but they do not even see it,
  - And if they do see it, it produces no effect.

- Others rush past,  
eager to grasp  
the phantom dreams  
which beckon them  
as a moth to the flame.

- Others bending beneath a heavy load  
stoops to  
pick up some  
shining bit of earth  
and adds it to his store.
- So while stooping down  
and gazing intently  
on the ground,  
he does not see the Cross.  
Miserable man!

- Many are eager to multiply their riches which increase your cares and which they will soon lose,
- Neglecting the only true imperishable treasure, and pass by!
- *Is it nothing to you all ye that pass by?*

- **Not confessing themselves to be sinners,**  
they pass by the Savior,  
as having no need of Him.

- **But on that day:**

- **Revelation 6:15**

**And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;**

- **Revelation 6:16**

**And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:**

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church  
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride  
Say  
“Come”.**

**Revelation 22:17**

