

Week of April 16 - But You Were Not Willing | Small Group Lesson 4

Connect

If you could go back and talk to your great-great grandfather, what would you talk about? Would you agree that your ancestry defines you, or rather what you do that defines you? Why?

Verses – Matthew 23:29-39 (CSB)

29 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You build the tombs of
the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous, 30 and you say, ‘If we
had lived in the days of our ancestors, we wouldn’t have taken part with
them in shedding the prophets’ blood.’ 31 So you testify against yourselves
that you are descendants of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Fill up,
then, the measure of your ancestors’ sins!

33 “Snakes! Brood of vipers! How can you escape being condemned to hell?
34 This is why I am sending you prophets, sages, and scribes. Some of them
you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will flog in your synagogues
and pursue from town to town. 35 So all the righteous blood shed on the
earth will be charged to you, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of
Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary
and the altar. 36 Truly I tell you, all these things will come on this
generation.

37 “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are
sent to her. How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen
gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 See, your
house is left to you desolate. 39 For I tell you, you will not see me again
until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord’!”

Study

1. What do the scribes and Pharisees do (v.29) and claim about their ancestors (v.30)? How does their attitude towards Jesus show their hypocrisy?

2. How is this final "woe" to them, by Jesus His most *foretelling* compared with previous ones? (2 Chronicles 36:15; Acts 7:51-52; Matthew 27:22-25)

3. What was Jesus' intention for His people when He sent the prophets to them? (v.37) What was their response, and what happened as a result? (v.38, 39)

4. What would have had to have changed when they say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord' (v.39)?

☕ **DISCUSS:** Read 1 Timothy 2:3-5. How does the will of God and His approach encourage us to continue in the mission of saving the lost, even though we will certainly face opposition? (1 Peter 2:23; 2 Peter 3:9; John 3:16)

🏃 **APPLY:** Remember, a person can deny Christ momentarily, but it is God who will judge their hearts. What is the right attitude towards someone who denies Christ? Why? (Luke 6:35-36; Ephesians 2:4-5; 1 Corinthians 5:12)

Share

Is there any sin or bad characteristic that you "inherited" from your parents or other previous generations that you yourself also did? What power does Christ and the gospel have over it? How is this liberating to you?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray for the Lord to help us to be set free from "inherited" sin.
- Would you like to share your love and hope to kids through TBCKIDZ Church? Contact: sumiko@tokyobaptist.org