

2019-2020 Bible Study

#29

4/21/20

Matthew 23

3/31/20

A Prayer to be recited before reading the Sacred Scriptures

- Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.
- Send forth Thy spirit and they shall be created.
- And thou shall renew the face of the earth
- *Let Us Pray*
- O God, Who didst instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things and ever to rejoice in His consolation.
- Through Christ our Lord

Outline for Matthew 23

- **Matthew 23**
- Jesus Denounces the Hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees
- The Lament over Jerusalem

Matthew 23

- **Matthew 23:1-4** *“Then said Jesus to the crowds and to his disciples,...will not move them with their finger”*
 - At this point, Jesus was beginning to come down hard on the **scribes** and **Pharisees**
 - Earlier, he was relatively easy on them
 - Even after they began to attack Him, he answered their questions
 - Here, He begins to counterattack by calling them “a bunch of hypocrites”

Matthew 23 (Cont)

- **Matthew 23:5-16** *“They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make their phylacteries broad...but if any one swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath”*
 - Jesus began by telling His disciples and followers that they should not act like the Pharisees
 - This was followed by seven accusations (woes) against the Jewish leadership
 - Father pointed out that over the centuries, some in the clergy have done similar things
 - Jesus was teaching His followers to be humble and to be of service to others
 - If someone wanted to be a leader (like a rabbi), they were expected to be like a servant and wash the feet of others
 - Sometimes Protestants have taken this passage to mean that we cannot use the name “father” or “priest,” because it contradicts what Jesus said here

Phylacteries – Deuteronomy 6:8 ^a

Morning prayer

Phylacteries, called tefillin in Hebrew, are worn by observant Jewish men each weekday morning during prayer.

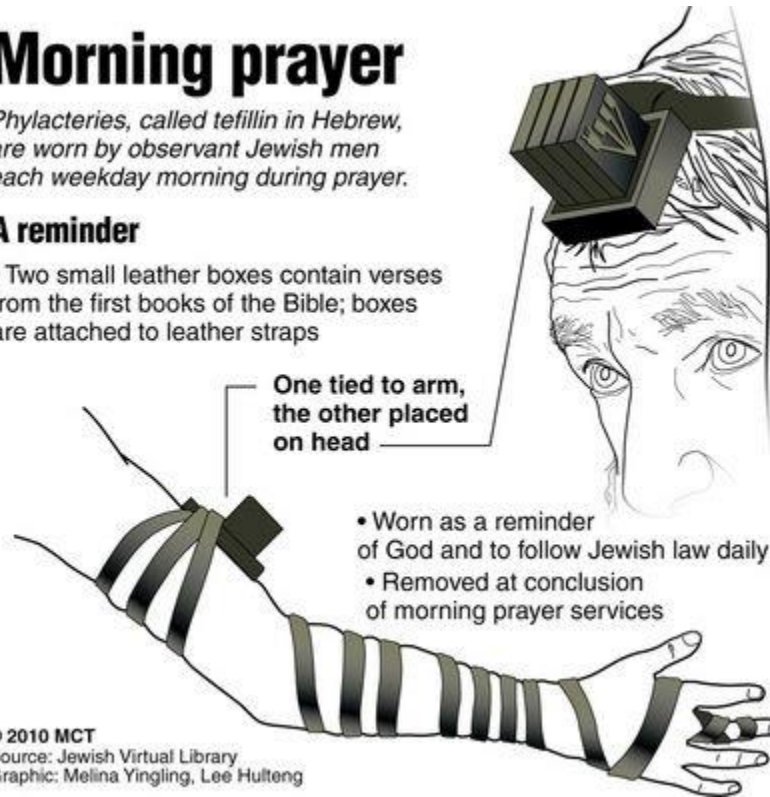
A reminder

- Two small leather boxes contain verses from the first books of the Bible; boxes are attached to leather straps

One tied to arm,
the other placed
on head

- Worn as a reminder of God and to follow Jewish law daily
- Removed at conclusion of morning prayer services

© 2010 MCT
Source: Jewish Virtual Library
Graphic: Melina Yingling, Lee Hulteng





Front View



Back View

Correct Tefillin Position on Hand



Hand Tefillin



Back View



Side View

Correct Tefillin Position on Head



Head Tefillin

Matthew 23 (Cont)

- Think of the number of times we have had to fill out forms which required that we list out father's name
- What about the use of the term “teacher”?
- This argument can be seen as a form of hypocrisy
- Father pointed out that throughout the Old Testament and New Testament, people referred to the word “father” in a religious sense, particularly as a religious superior
- Next, he criticizes them for seeking “proselytes” (a mixed multitude – **Exodus 12:38**)

Matthew 23 (Cont)

- **Matthew 23:17-33** *“You blind fools!...how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?”*
 - Matthew continues with Jesus’ criticism of the Scribes and Pharisees
 - Swearing oaths
 - Tithing
 - Kosher Laws
 - Uncleanliness
 - Tombs of the prophets

Matthew 23 (Cont)

- **Matthew 23:34-36** *“Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes,...all this will come upon **this generation**”*
 - When we hear this language, we need to return to **Matthew 10 and 16**
 - Father requested that we highlight “**this generation**”
 - Several times Jesus said “this generation”
 - Father said that this referred to the generation of people to whom He was preaching to at that time

Matthew 10

- **Matthew 10:17-23** *“Beware of men;...before the son of man comes”*
 - Father pointed out that this was fulfilled in the **Book of Acts**
 - He asked that we highlight, *“**But he who endures until the end will be saved**”*
 - Jesus continued with, *“I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel, before the Son of man comes”*
 - He was talking about them being persecuted from town to town (and later being scourged in the temple) before they finished evangelizing the land of Israel

-

Matthew 10 (Cont)

- With all that in mind, Father asked us to turn to **Matthew 16** where Jesus told this to the disciples as they were about to head for Jerusalem for His execution
- We remember how Peter said that he would not permit Jesus to be persecuted and killed
- To which Jesus replied that if the disciples wanted to go with Him (to Jerusalem) they had to pick up their crosses and follow Him

Matthew 16

- **Matthew 16:27** *“For the Son of man is to come with his angels in the glory of the Father, and then he will repay every man for what he has done”*
 - Jesus was promising that there were some among His disciples who would not taste death until they had seen His glorious return (bringing vengeance on Jerusalem)
 - Father pointed to the continued use of the term “Son of man”
 - This passage was talking about an event that would take place in which they would witness the revelation of Jesus with His angels in the glory of the Father

Matthew 16 (Cont)

- And this event will take place before the church will be able to evangelize all of Israel
- This meant that it would occur within one generation
- With all of this in mind, we need to return to **Matthew 23:37**

Mathew 23 (Cont)

- **Matthew 23:37-24:2** *“O Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you!...That will not be thrown down”*
 - The phrase “your house is forsaken and desolate” is from **Jeremiah 22**
 - This prophecy is from:
 - **1st Kings 9** where God tells Solomon, “Yea I let you build this house and it is a great place but I tell you what, if you forsake me I will forsake this house and it will be destroyed”
 - **Jeremiah 22** prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem

Matthew 23 (Cont)

- Further, in **Psalm 118** we hear: *“For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”*
- When Jesus left the temple late in the day, his disciples said: *“O Lord look at the beautiful stones”* (Herod had done a great deal of work on the temple)

Matthew 23 (Cont)

- Jesus responded: *“I tell you the time will come when not one stone will be left upon another”*
- Jesus was predicting what would happen in 70 AD when the temple was completely destroyed by the Romans
- This theme will be continued in our review of the rest of **Matthew 24**

The Saint Raymond Prayer

- Glorious Saint Raymond of Peñafort, wise and holy patron,
come to the aid of those entrusted to your care,
and all who flee to your protection.
Intercede for us in our need,
and help us through your prayers, example, and
teaching,
to proclaim the truth of the Gospel to all we meet.
And when we have reached the fullness of our years,
we beseech you to guide us home to heaven,
to live in peace with you, Our Mother Mary, and Our
Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hail Mary Prayer

- Hail Mary,
Full of Grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of death. Amen.