

Providence Reformed Baptist Church

Sunday, October 4, 2020

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 9. Brood of Vipers – Matthew 3:7-12

Pastor Phillip M Way

- I. John Confronts Our Ways – vs. 7
 - A. Pharisees and Sadducees
 - 1. Proud Separatists – God’s Special People – Luke 18:9-14
 - a. Scribes – lawyers – Matt. 23:2-7
 - b. Rules and law – oral tradition
 - c. Minutiae and missing the weightier matters – Matt. 23:23; Luke 11:42
 - 2. Skeptical Moralists – Liberal Power Brokers
 - a. Priests, Sons of Zadock, the High Priest – 1 Kings 2:35; Acts 5:17
 - b. Denied miracles – Matt. 22:23-24; Acts 23:6-8
 - c. Accepted only the Pentateuch – written Scripture, no oral tradition
 - d. Political power and wealth – (Quote 1 Josephus)
 - B. Brood of Vipers – Sons of Satan – John 8:40-47
 - 1. Naturally dead, blind, and bound – 1 Cor. 2:14; Rom. 6:20-21; 8:6-8
 - 2. By nature children of wrath – Eph. 2:1-3
 - C. United Against Christ
- II. John Warns of Wrath – vs. 7-10
 - A. Flee the Wrath to Come – (Quote 2 Morris)
 - B. Fruit Worthy of Repentance – (Quote 3 Spurgeon)
 - 1. Fruit – good or bad – Matt. 7:17-19; Luke 6:43
 - 2. Fruit bearing – John 15:2, 4 – (Quote 4 Ryle)
 - 3. Fruitful living – John 15:5, 16 – (Quote 5 Morris)
 - C. False Assurance from Family and Lineage
 - 1. Ancestry – “We have Abraham as our father”
 - a. Faith – Rom. 9:6; Gal. 3:7
 - b. Family – John 1:13; 8:39-40
 - c. Finding His people – Matt. 22:1-14 – (Quote 6 Spurgeon)
 - 2. Living stones – 1 Peter 2:5
 - a. Heirs of grace – (Quote 7 Spurgeon)
 - b. Transformed hearts – Ezek. 36:26 – (Quote 8 Spurgeon)
 - 3. Union with the visible church – (Quote 9 Ryle)
 - D. Felling the Fruitless Tree – Isa. 10:34; Jer. 46:22; Matt. 7:19 – (Quote 10 Spurgeon)
- III. John Announces the Winnowing – vs. 11-12
 - A. One Mightier is Coming
 - 1. I baptize with water unto repentance
 - 2. I am the lowliest servant – sandal strap
 - 3. He is mightier – Heb. 1:1-4
 - 4. He will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire
 - a. Salvation – Acts 1:4-5, 8; Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 12:12-13
 - b. Damnation – 2 Thess. 1:6-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:10, 14-15; 21:8
 - B. The Great Divider
 - 1. Winnowing – to test and divide – Psa. 1:1-6; Isa. 5:24
 - 2. Gathering the wheat, burning the chaff – Eph. 4:14-15
 - 3. The Word separates sinners from saints – Matt. 10:34-39
 - 4. Jesus will gather a people for Himself – Matt. 13:36-43

Quotes

Quote 1 – “They had the confidence of the wealthy alone and found no following among the people.”
– Josephus

Quote 2 – “We are not to think that God is mildly displeased when people sin. He is totally and vigorously opposed to evil.” – Leon Morris

Quote 3 – “Lord, save us from a fruitless repentance.” – CHS

Quote 4 – “The works of Christ for us, the work of the Spirit in us.” – JC Ryle

Quote 5 – “John is not inviting people to pile up good works; he is looking for a change in the orientation of the whole of life that will result in fruitful living.” – Leon Morris

Quote 6 – “He will find a people in the slums if His gospel is rejected by the respectable.” – CHS

Quote 7 – “Do not imagine that God needs you in order to fulfill His promises to His servant Abraham, for He can make each stone in Jordan into an heir of grace.” – CHS

Quote 8 – “What a blessing that He can transform hearts of stone into filial spirits.” – CHS

Quote 9 – (Christ, not union with a Christian family, the church, or access to the means of grace) – “He is the fountain of mercy, grace, life and peace.” – JC Ryle

Quote 10 – “The absence of good fruit is as fatal as the presence of corrupt fruit.” – CHS

Cross References

Luke 18:9-14

9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men— extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Matthew 23:2-7

2 saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. 3 Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. 4 For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. 5 But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. 6 They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, 7 greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi.’

Matthew 23:23

23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

Luke 11:42

42 “But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

1 Kings 2:35

35 The king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in his place over the army, and the king put Zadok the priest in the place of Abiathar.

Acts 5:17

17 Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation,

Matthew 22:23-24

23 The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, 24 saying: “Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother.

Acts 23:6-8

6 But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!” 7 And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees; and the assembly was divided. 8 For Sadducees say that there is no resurrection—and no angel or spirit; but the Pharisees confess both.

John 8:40-47

40 But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. 41 You do the deeds of your father.” Then they said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God.” 42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. 43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? 47 He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.”

1 Corinthians 2:14

14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Romans 6:20-21

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

Romans 8:6-8

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Ephesians 2:1-3

2 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Matthew 7:17-19

17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Luke 6:43

43 "For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.

John 15:2

2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

John 15:4-5

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

John 15:16

16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

Romans 9:6

6 But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,

Galatians 3:7

7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.

John 1:13

13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 8:39-40

39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this.

Matthew 22:1-14

22 And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: 2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, 3 and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. 4 Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."' 5 But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. 6 And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. 7 But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8 Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' 10 So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. 12 So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."

1 Peter 2:5

5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Ezekiel 36:26

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Isaiah 10:34

34 He will cut down the thickets of the forest with iron, And Lebanon will fall by the Mighty One.

Jeremiah 46:22

22 Her noise shall go like a serpent, For they shall march with an army And come against her with axes, Like those who chop wood.

Matthew 7:19

19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Hebrews 1:1-4

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Acts 1:4-5

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Acts 1:8

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Galatians 3:27

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-9

6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

Jude 6-7

6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; 7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the

cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Revelation 20:10

10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Revelation 20:14-15

14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:8

8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Psalms 1

1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. 4 The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Isaiah 5:24

24 Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, And the flame consumes the chaff, So their root will be as rottenness, And their blossom will ascend like dust; Because they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Ephesians 4:14-15

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

Matthew 10:34-39

34 “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; 36 and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ 37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

Matthew 13:36-43

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.” 37 He answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. 39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. 40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. 41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!