



SIDETRACKED BY YOUR TONE

JANUARY 7, 2024

SETTING THE STAGE

ASSORTED GOSPEL PASSAGES

By His triumphal entry, cleansing and possession of the temple, His teaching and healing, Jesus had _____

His rightful title as Israel's Messiah — but the nation _____ Him.

WHY SUCH HARSH WORDS?

MATTHEW 23:13-39

- ① When Jesus speaks here, He speaks as _____; Jesus is not merely a prophet, He is _____ Prophet.
- ② Jesus speaks _____, but He does so with _____ in His eyes. EZEKIEL 18:32
- ③ Still Jesus' words of condemnation, though strongly stated, have the _____ of calling men to _____ . JEREMIAH 18:6-8

- ④ Jesus' strongly worded warning of judgment was _____ coming upon those who rejected Him, and this judgment was coming _____.
- ⑤ When Jesus spoke of His return, He spoke of tremendous _____ and _____ for those who willingly _____ Him as Lord.

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. What kind of image does a typical politician try to project in running for office? How have you found this image to be different from what the person is really like?
2. Read Matthew 23:13-32. Jesus pronounced seven woes (judgments) against the teachers of the law and the Pharisees. Summarize each one. What do these "woes" all have in common? Why do you think it was necessary for Jesus to condemn the religious leaders before the whole community?
3. Why do people act hypocritically? What inconsistencies have you found between your own faith and your everyday life? What is the cure for hypocrisy?
4. Read Matthew 23:31-36. Were the religious leaders in some way guilty merely because they were descended from murderers? What would make them fully guilty before the Lord? What would they soon do to confirm what Jesus was saying about them was accurate?
5. Read Matthew 23:37-39. How did Jesus feel about Jerusalem and its people? How does this help us to understand His anger and frustration with its leaders? What does verse 38 mean? How about verse 39? When will verse 39 be fulfilled?
6. How would you reach out to someone who has become bitter or disillusioned towards religious hypocrites or empty religion?