

A younger pastor that I mentored changed essential parts of our ministry at the church. The church became more about religion, money and politics and less about the word. I confronted him and I was told that everybody does it. How is it possible that our presentation of Jesus is so nuanced by the culture? Are we selling out? Have we committed the same sin that Jesus rebukes in Matt. 15?

Some of Jesus' harshest criticism was for the religious leaders¹. When the so-called churches act like Babylon², it isn't a bad thing when their gatherings are cancelled³. God's people are to come out of them (Re 18:4).

There is still time for repentance (Ac 2:37, 38)—there is still time to trust in the Jesus of scripture not a god of man's imagination (Ro 1:21–25, 1 Co 2:4, 13).

Bible-believing churches need support (Mt 24:45–47). Preachers and teachers can help to prepare men's hearts for the Lord's return (1 Co 9:16). They should continue speaking his word faithfully (Jer 23:28).

Jesus said:

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.⁴

Believers should continue preaching (Ac 8:25) and teaching God's word (Ac 18:11).

¹ Chief errors of the Pharisees, their: outward righteousness (Luke 7:36–50), blindness to spiritual things (John 3:1–10), emphasis on the ceremonial Law (Matt. 15:1–9), perversion of Scripture (Matt. 15:1, 9), self-justification before men (Luke 16:14, 15), hindering potential believers (John 9:16, 22), refusal to accept Christ (Matt. 12:24–34). Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 486). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

² Babylon, the city will be destroyed for her many sins. The reasons (Rev. 18:2–3, 5, 7, 13b, 23c–24): The city is destroyed for its many sins. It has become a den of demons (18:2). It is filled with immorality (18:3a). It is materialistic to the core (18:3b). Its sins are as high as the heavens (18:5). It is totally proud and arrogant (18:7). It has deceived the nations and killed the saints (18:23c–24). It is buying and selling human slaves (18:13b). Ibid, Rev. 18:1–13.

³ Due to the Covid-19 hysteria of 2020.

⁴ The Holy Bible: King James Version. (2009). (Electronic Edition of the 1900 Authorized Version., Mt 7:13–14). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.