**The Veil of Deception**

The enemy challenges our right to inherit the things of the kingdom by taking us back to the things of the law. When the law is the center of our focus, there is a veil over our eyes and we cannot see spiritual truth. We experience condemnation and frustration, which are products of the law, rather than life and peace, which are products of the Spirit. **2 Corinthians 3:6-9; Romans 3:23**

***2Co 3:14*** *But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.*

***2Co 3:15*** *But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.*

The Pharisees focus was on the law and they missed the whole point of the gospel.

***Mat 9:13*** *But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.* ***[a change in the direction of their thinking]***

***Mat 12:7*** *But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.*

The Pharisees were of their father the devil.

***Joh 8:44*** *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

Their doctrine “shut up” the kingdom and prevented men from entering in.

***Mat 23:13*** *But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.*

They lay burdens on people that could not be lifted.

***Mat 23:4*** *For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.*

They carried out the “work of their father the devil.”

***Isa 14:16*** *They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;*

***Isa 14:17*** *That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?*

**Persecuted for His Name’s Sake**

***Joh 15:20*** *Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute* ***[to harass or call into question because of one’s beliefs, to cause to flee]*** *you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.*

***Joh 15:21*** *But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake* ***[position of authority]****, because they know* ***[understand]*** *not him that sent me.*

Jesus was the “Word made flesh.” He was the son of God. He and His Father were one. It was Jesus’ identity or position that he held with his Father that was challenged.

Satan challenged Jesus’ right to be called the son of God. “If you are the son of God, prove it!” **Matthew 3:17; Matthew 4:3-9**

The Pharisees called it blasphemy when Jesus claimed to be one with His Father. How can you being a man say that you are “equal with God?”

***John 10:30-33*** *I and my Father are one.* ***31*** *Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.* ***32*** *Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?* ***33*** *The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.*

The Pharisees tried to discredit Jesus by relating his performance to the regulations of the law and to the traditions of the elders.

***John 9:16*** *Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles?*

***Luke 13:14*** Jesus healed the woman who had an infirmity 18 *years* ***14*** *And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.*

***Matthew 9:2-*** *And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.* ***3*** *And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth.* ***4*** *And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?* ***5*** *For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk?* ***6*** *But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.*

***Luke 5:21*** *And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?*

***Matthew 9:9-11******V11*** *And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?*

***Matthew 9:14*** *Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?*

***Matthew 12:2*** *But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.*

***Matthew 12:22-24*** *Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw.* ***23*** *And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?* ***24*** *But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.*

**Matthew 15:1-3** Your disciples transgress the traditions of the elders

Jesus was crucified over the identity issue. How can you being a man say you are equal with God?

***Mat 26:63*** *But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.* ***64*** *Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.* ***65*** *Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.* ***66*** *What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.*

**John 19:7** We have a law and by our law he is guilty of death.

**Leviticus 24:16** Anyone that blasphemes the name of the Lord is guilty of death.

**Matthew 27:11** Jesus claimed to be the king of the Jews.

**Matthew 27:18** For envy they delivered Him. **Isaiah 14:13-14**

**Matthew 27:27-30** The soldiers mocked Him. They dressed him in a crown of thorns, a scarlet robe, and put a reed in his hand.

The crown of thorns represented His works **Genesis 3:18,**

The scarlet robe represented His sins as a man

 The reed was used to mock the scepter of righteousness **Heb 1:8**

**Matthew 27:39-44** If He is the King of Israel, let him save himself!

**Matthew 27:46-49-**If He is who He says He is, God won’t forsake Him.

**John 19:19,21** Pilate wrote “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” The Jews said change it to He said He was the King of the Jews.

**Matthew 27:50-54-**Truly this was the “Son of God.”

When Jesus was challenged, He was not moved because he knew who He was and he embraced it.

We are persecuted and challenged in the same way. We were created in God’s image and given dominion over all things. It is that identity that the enemy wants to steal. How can you being mere men say you are one with God?

***Mat 10:24*** *The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.*

***25*** *It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?*