

## Scripture Versus A Talmudic System

Rather than affirm the Pharisees' expectations and assumptions, the true Messiah overturned them with the same firmness that He used on the money changers at the temple. The Pharisees were galled by Jesus' understanding of spiritual accountability, disarmament and evaluation. He completely short-circuited their Talmudic system of theological controversies, rabbinical authority, proper origins and pedigrees. Jesus declared that spiritual questions must be evaluated by their *fruit* (Matt. 7:15-18).

But by His rejection of the Talmud, Jesus did not mean that Scripture should be ignored. Rather He was pointing out the errors that man makes when interpreting God's message. The Pharisees developed the Talmud as an attempt to provide rules for situations not covered explicitly in Scripture. This practice is known as "fencing" (building fences to keep people away from the possibility of sinning). The most extreme form of fencing developed in the Jewish tradition was the kosher rules of food that go beyond the Mosaic code, as in, for example, providing separate plates for dairy and meat items.

(Quenching the Spirit: Examining Centuries of Opposition to the Moving of the Holy Spirit by William DeArteaga, Lake Mary, Florida: Creation House, 1992, 20)