

JESUS REBUKES HYPOCRISY

Matthew 23:1-39

Key verse 3

“So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.”

1. What did Jesus tell the crowds and his disciples about the life and teachings of the Pharisees (1-4)? How and why did the Pharisees show off (5-7)? In what ways must Jesus’ disciples be different (3, 8-12)?
2. To whom did Jesus turn his attention to and what is a “woe” and a “hypocrite” (13a)? What example of hypocrisy did Jesus start with (13b)? Why were their converts children of hell (15)? How did their swearing reveal their blindness (16-22)? How should we be different?
3. How did their detailed tithing miss the point (23)? What does it mean to strain out a gnat and swallow a camel (24)? What makes the inside unclean (25-28)? How can we be clean?
4. How did Jesus reveal they were no better than their ancestors (29-32)? Whom would Jesus send to them and why, and how would they be treated (33-34)? What would come upon the Pharisees and their generation, and why (35-36)?
5. How had Jerusalem treated God’s effort to draw them to himself, and how did Jesus feel about this (37)? Why is rejecting God’s love a serious matter (38)? What do you think verse 39 means? In view of this passage, how should we respond to Jesus?