

THE INTENSE WARNING OF THE SERVANT



TRI-CITY BAPTIST CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 4, 2011
MARK 12:38-40 – MESSAGE #56

Matthew 23:1-5



- (23:1) Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,
- (23:2) Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:
- (23:3) All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.
- (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.
- (23:5) **But all their works they do for to be seen of men:** they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

Matthew 23:6-10



- (23:6) And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,
- (23:7) And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.
- (23:8) But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.
- (23:9) And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.
- (23:10) Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.

Matthew 23:11-15



- (23:11) But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.
- (23:12) And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

WOE #1

- (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.

WOE #2

- (23:14) **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

WOE #3

- (23:15) **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

Matthew 23:16-20



WOE #4

- (23:16) **Woe unto you, ye blind guides**, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!
- (23:17) Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?
- (23:18) And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty.
- (23:19) Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?
- (23:20) Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon.

Matthew 23:21-25



- (23:21) And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein.
- (23:22) And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon.

WOE #5

- (23:23) **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.
- (23:24) Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

WOE #6

- (23:25) **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Matthew 23:26-30



- (23:26) Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

WOE #7

- (23:27) **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.
- (23:28) Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

WOE #8

- (23:29) **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,
- (23:30) And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

Matthew 23:31-36



- (23:31) Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.
- (23:32) Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.
- (23:33) **Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?**
- (23:34) Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:
- (23:35) **That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth,** from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.
- (23:36) Verily I say unto you, **All these things shall come upon this generation.**

I. THE CAUTION OF THE SERVANT



Mark 12:38a-b,

And he said unto them in his doctrine,

Beware of the scribes,

II. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SCRIBES



Mark 12:38c-12:40b

- 1) which love to go in long clothing,
- 2) and love salutations in the marketplaces,
- 3) And the chief seats in the synagogues,
- 4) and the uppermost rooms at feasts:
- 5) Which devour widows' houses,
- 6) and for a pretence make long prayers:

Powerless Preaching



- **Mark 1:22, And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.**

Pharisees read more of man's words than God's.

Pharisees quote man's works more than God's Word!

Pharisees are more interested in what others say about the Word of God than the Word of God itself.

Focus is not on Man's Fallen Condition and God's Solution for the Forgiveness of Sins



- **Mark 2:6-7, But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?**

Pharisees are critical of those ministries that focus on grace, mercy and forgiveness.

Pharisees have a low view of the forgiveness of God.

Pharisees do not value Christ's forgiveness of sins.

Exercise a Very Selective Ministry



- **Mark 2:16-17, And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? ¹⁷ When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**
- Pharisees avoid ministering to “scum.” They do not want to get their hands dirty in ministry!
- Pharisees criticize ministries that minister to the spiritually sick. They are very exclusive in their ministering – cliquish.

Proclaim their own Piety



- **(2:18) And the disciples of John and of the Pharisees used to fast: and they come and say unto him, Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but thy disciples fast not?**
- Pharisees are quick to tell you that they are fasting!
- Pharisees are quick to tell you about their praying!
- Pharisees are quick to tell you about their giving!

Police other Ministries and Workers



- **Mark 2:24, And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful?**

Pharisees police other ministries!

Pharisees compare their worship services to others!

Pharisees compare their list of worship day do's and don'ts with your practices and then judge you for your failures to comply to their list.

Reverse Divine Orders



- **Mark 2:27-28, And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.**

Pharisees believe that man was made for the Sabbath!
Pharisees believe that worship is to be governed by legalism and man-made rituals.

Snoop Dogs and Curiosity Cats



- **Mark 3:2-4, And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him. ³ And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. ⁴ And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.**

Pharisees love to snoop around and find “fault” with other ministries! Pharisees try to trap and bait people!

Pharisees are not very trusting! They question everything!

Pharisees love to blog and report their findings!

Pharisees love to accuse people of sin!

Pharisees do more denouncing than evangelizing!

Discredit and Destroy Others



- **Mark 3:6, And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.**
- Pharisees discuss with others how to expose and destroy another man's ministry.
- Pharisees seek to discredit other ministries.
- Pharisees seek to turn others away from a ministry that does not comply to their man-made standards.
- Pharisees do not see their own jealousy and hatred in their hearts.

Fault Finders – Cannot Please



- **Mark 7:2-3, And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders.**
- Pharisees are know as faultfinders!
- Pharisees are highly critical of others!
- Pharisees leave their work behind so they can report on others!
- Pharisees compete spiritually with others!
- Pharisees are tradition-bound! Pharisees are imbalanced!

Talk a Good Game



- **Mark 7:6, He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.**

Pharisees talk a good game!

Pharisees say they are devoted to God, but in reality are self-absorbed.

Pharisees miss the heart! Substitute form for heart.

Dark Habits



- **Mark 7:15, There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.**

Pharisees have dark thoughts and habits!

Argumentative



- **Mark 9:14, And when he came to his disciples, he saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning with them.**
- Pharisees love to debate others!
- Pharisees love to argue over theological points!
- Pharisees love to hear themselves talk!

All Business – Bottom Line



- **Mark 11:17, And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.**
- **Mark 11:18, And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine.**
- Pharisees are very money conscious!
- Pharisees need to make a profit with their religion!
- Pharisees understand the language of money!

Controlling



- **Mark 11:27, And they come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple, there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders,**
- **Mark 11:28, And say unto him, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority to do these things?**
- Pharisees are controlling!
- Pharisees do not like any religious competition!
- Pharisees do not want their people to be influenced by any other teachers or ministries outside their orbits!

Hatred and Murder



- **Mark 8:31, And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.**
- **Mark 14:1, After two days was the feast of the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put him to death.**
- **Mark 14:43, And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.**
- **Mark 14:53, And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes.**
- **Mark 15:1, And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried him away, and delivered him to Pilate.**

III. THE CONDEMNATION OF THE SERVANT



- Mark 12:40b . . . These shall receive greater damnation.
- Matthew 23:35, **That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth**, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.
- Matthew 23:36, Verily I say unto you, **All these things shall come upon this generation.**

IV. THE COMPASSION OF THE SAVIOR



- Matthew 23:37, O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, **how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!**
- Matthew 23:38, Behold, **your house** is left unto you desolate (“My house” – Mark 11:17).
- Matthew 23:39, For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

The Invitation to Pharisees



- Jesus said to Nicodemus, the Pharisee, “Ye must be born again.”

Dear God:

Forgive me for all of my sins: all my pride, all my selfishness, all my self-righteousness. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for my sins and rose again. I call on you now to be my Savior.

I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.