

## SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS WOES

**Self-righteousness is a dangerous frame of mind and way of life that tries to display righteousness on the outside but empty on the inside** - Mark 12:38-40 - 38 As he taught, Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted in the marketplaces, 39 and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. 40 **They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers.** Such men will be **punished most severely.**"

Math 23:1-12 -23:1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: 2 "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. 3 **So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.** 4 They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. 5 "Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; 6 they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; 7 they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them 'Rabbi.' 8 "But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one Master and you are all brothers. 9 And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. 10 Nor are you to be called 'teacher,' for you have one Teacher, the Christ. 11 **The greatest among you will be your servant.** 12 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

**\*Phylacteries square leather boxes containing four strips of parchment with Duet 11:13-21, 6:4-9, Ex13:11-16 & 13:1-10**

- ✓ They require others to do things they would not do
- ✓ They make themselves look more Spiritual
- ✓ Must be noticed.
- ✓ Must be acknowledged.
- ✓ Expects to get special treatment.
- ✓ Expects to be honored.
- ✓ They will hurt others (especially the weak) to advance themselves.
- ✓ Want titles not made for them
- ✓ Their religion is about them not God.

**Self-Serving and misleading** - Matt 23:13 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.

**Being too busy with people being in awe of your knowledge, (knowledge that is usually wrong and misleading) you still keep it from others instead of sharing it.**

- Not explaining our actions with the Bible
- Dealing with the immature and naïve that won't challenge you
- Teaching with charm and deception or emotion not with the Word of God.

**Hurt others (especially the most vulnerable) to build self** - Matt 23:14 Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Therefore you will be punished more severely.

**Making a show of your ministry at other's expense.**

- Fake Healing shows
- Speaking tongues incorrectly
- Taking money from the poor and needy offering false hope.

**Must have followers that completely follow them** - Matt 23:15 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.

**You go (noticeably) way out and overboard for a (false) ministry and those you train are doomed for Hell.**

- Those who will only minister when there is an audience
- Go out of your way to minister but ignoring those around you
- Your ministry is more of a show.

**Defines what is "meaningful" in Spite of what God says** - Matt 23:16-22 -16 "Woe to you, blind guides! **You say,** 'If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.' 17 You blind fools! **Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred?** 18 **You also say,** 'If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gift on it, he is bound by his oath.' 19 You blind men! Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? 20 Therefore, he who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. 21 And he who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who dwells in it. 22 And he who swears by heaven swears by God's throne and by the one who sits on it.

**You are wrong on what is really sacred and you teach those wrong assumptions to others truly misleading them.**

- Those who hold “the book” the Bible is written in as more sacred than the actual Word.
- Taking Communion over “How” to take Communion.
- Going to church and doing all the common rituals instead of going to grow, learn, and refuel.

**You act with no or wrong purpose giving priority to somethings while ignoring others** - Matt 23:23-24 -23 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices — mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law — justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. 24 You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

**You make sure to display some “religious” action but your heart and purpose are wrong.**

- Paying tithes but not helping the needy in a Godly way
- Reading your Bible but not doing what it says.
- Singing religious Songs and saying religious statements but NOT living a Godly life.
- Overlook and allow big matters and make a big deal of small matters

**You only work on what is seen not what is on the inside** - Matt 23:25-26 - 25 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and THEN the outside also will be clean.

**You spend all of your time on what is seen on the outside, you want to “look” righteous but it’s not what you really “Are”.**

- Speaking “Christianese” to give the impression that you are righteous
- Making sure you say the right thing to the right people but are doing nothing to fix your actual problems.
- Not putting the time into spiritually growing but you put on a good show.

**You will fight to make sure you “look” good and right while “being” wrong** - Matt 23:27-28 -27 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean. 28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

**Even when you are truly messed up you want to give the impression that you are righteous.**

- Will claim to be right even when your wrong
- Will not talk to someone who is trying to correct or rebuke you.
- You being right in others eyes is more important than you serving God.

**“YOUR” values and history trumps God** - Matt 23:29-32 - 29 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. 30 And **YOU SAY**, 'If we had lived in the days of our forefathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' 31 So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Fill up, then, the measure of the sin of your forefathers!

**You have no problem pointing out those who do wrong in the past while in different ways you are making the same bad decisions.**

- People who are Christians but still have cultural and/or family traditions that are not in line with God.
- Magnifying the wrong others do in order to demean them while you spiritually kill others.
- Will have other values (i.e. Politics, traditions, history...) equal to or surpassing God’s rules
- Even though you recognize wrongs of the past, you miss you are doing the same thing in a different way.

**Christ is trying to help the self righteous** - Matt 23:33-36 - 33 "You snakes! You brood of vipers! **How will you escape being condemned to hell?** 34 Therefore I am sending you prophets and wise men and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town. 35 And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berehiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36 I tell you the truth, all this will come upon this generation.

**Even though Christ is sending people to save them Christ prophecies most will not change and be punished.**

**It will be easier to be self-righteous in this day and age because it fits the times** - 2 Tim 3:1-5 - But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.