

Wheelersburg Baptist Church 11/10/2024

Matthew 23:1-7 “What Jesus Thinks of a Pharisee”

Series: “The Danger of Being Religious: Jesus and the Pharisees in Matthew 23”

I. Jesus exposes the _____ of the Pharisees (1-4).

- A. We learn _____ they are (1-2).
- B. We learn _____ they deserve (3a).
- C. We learn _____ they are deficient (3b-4).
 - 1. The emphasis of _____ is on doing.
 - 2. The emphasis of _____ Christianity is on knowing.

II. Jesus exposes the _____ of the Pharisees (5-7).

- A. The first evidence is what they ____ (5).
- B. The second evidence is what they _____ (6-7).
 - 1. They love to use religion to get social _____.
 - 2. They love to use religion to get _____.
 - 3. They love to use religion to get _____ recognition.
 - 4. They love to use religion to get _____ honor.

Make It Personal: Beware of the _____ of pharisaism.

- 1. It's possible to be sincere, yet _____.
- 2. It's possible to be busy for God, yet not _____ Him.
- 3. It's possible to change today, _____-out.

Community Group Discussion:

- 1. We began a new series today, “*The Danger of Being Religious: Jesus and the Pharisees in Matthew 23.*” What is religion? Did you grow up in what you would consider to be a religious home? Is religion a good thing? When is it not?
- 2. In today’s text, Matthew 23:1-7, Jesus talks about “the scribes and Pharisees”. Use your study Bibles and smart phones to research these two groups in Judaism. How were they similar? How were they distinct? What was their reputation?
- 3. Take time to read Jesus’ words in Matthew 23:1-7, then have someone walk through the main points of the sermon outline. What do we learn about Jesus from this passage?
- 4. Jesus gives an interesting command in verse 3. Concerning the scribes and Pharisees He says, “Do what they tell you, but do not do the works they do.” What does He mean by this? What did the Pharisees *say* and what did they *do*?
- 5. What motivates a Pharisee according to verse 5? According to verse 6? According to verse 7? What are some ways we may be like the Pharisees?
- 6. As we’ll see in future weeks, Jesus will have much more to say to the Pharisees. As we finish today, discuss this question. Can a Pharisee change, and if so, how? Think of a biblical example, and if possible, a personal example.