

Wheelersburg Baptist Church 11/17/2024
Matthew 23:8-12 “Jesus Turns Religion Upside Down”
Series: “The Danger of Being Religious: Jesus and the Pharisees in Matthew 23”

I. Jesus confronts _____-seeking (8-10).

A. We don't seek _____ over people (8).

1. We have one _____.

2. We are _____.

B. We don't seek _____ God through people (9).

1. We have one _____.

2. He is in _____.

C. We don't seek _____ from people (10).

1. We have one _____.

2. He is the _____.

II. Jesus commends _____ (11-12).

A. The _____ is the greatest (11).

1. That's true of _____.

2. That's true in the _____.

B. The _____ will be exalted (12).

Take Inventory: How can I tell if I'm settling for mere _____?

1. Am I hung up on _____?

2. Am I experiencing joy in _____ others?

3. Am I making Christ the _____ of my life?

Community Group Discussion:

1. 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 our current series, “*The Danger of Being Religious*,” we’re pondering Jesus’ words concerning some of the most religious people in His day. In Matthew 23, the Lord confronts “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 again Jesus’ words in Matthew 23:1-12, and then have someone walk through the main points of the sermon outline. What stood out most to you from this message? What questions did it produce? What insights do we gain into Jesus from this passage?

4. What does Jesus say about using titles in verses 8-10, and why does He say this? Are titles ever appropriate, and if so, when? When are they inappropriate?

5. What are the evidences of true greatness, according to Jesus in verses 11-12? In practical terms, what does it mean for a person to “humble himself”?

6. In future weeks, Jesus will have much more to say to us about 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.