



**NO LIMITS**

WITH PASTOR DELMAN

**NO**

**WIRE**

**HANGERS**

S E R M O N G U I D E

## No Wire Hangers

*Matthew 23:23-28*

### INTRODUCTION

Today we are going to talk about the importance of having a humble heart that is open to God’s work. In our key passage of Scripture, Jesus is talking about the religious leaders of the day and how they were so focused on appearing spiritually strong on the outside, but they didn’t focus at all on their internal spiritual strength. We can’t neglect what’s going on inside of us because we’re too distracted by how we are perceived by others. In order to make sure we don’t make this mistake, there are four steps we can take.

### NOTES

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### KEY POINTS

#### 1. Don’t Major In Minors

Jesus’s concern is that when we major in minors, when we prioritize that which does not deserve priority, we trivialize what it means to be a believer in God. There are aspects of our faith that are a part of our duty and discipline.

We are to be generous in supporting the work of the Lord’s house. We are to serve in the church. We are to attend worship, but the problem comes when we want extra credit for doing what we’re supposed to do. But when we do this, we are omitting the weightier matters.

#### 2. Don’t Ignore Injustice In The World

As believers, we cannot ignore the social, political, and economic unfairness in the world, and our faith ought to shine a spotlight on that. While the people in today’s key passage were counting seeds, there were people outside the temple being exploited by the powers that be. While they were obsessed with their religious duty, there were people whose lives were being ruined and turned upside down by crooked tax collectors, corrupt judges, and shady politicians.

And those things, the care for orphans and widows, taking care of foreigners and immigrants, providing for the poor, righting the scales of injustice...these are the matters of the Law that cannot be ignored.

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### 3. Show Mercy And Compassion To Those Who Are Hurting

Jesus goes on to say that the weightier matters of the law have to do with mercy. This particular Greek word for “mercy” only appears three times in the New Testament, and they are all in Matthew. It refers to the Old Testament’s command to show pity and compassion to those in need.

What bothered Jesus about the Pharisees was that it was very judgmental of the plight of those whose lives were messy and imperfect. People who were poor, downtrodden, or downcast were seen as failures in some way, and not worthy of love. But Jesus was not okay with this type of thinking. Instead, He wanted His followers then and now to show compassion and mercy to those who are struggling.

### 4. Cultivate Authentic Spirituality

The thing about the Pharisees is that they focused on externals of religion but ignored the interior life and what it means to be in a true relationship with God. We see this in verse 25 where Jesus says that their faith is like those who clean the outside of the cup, but on the inside they are unclean.

The point Jesus is trying to make is that their religious devotion, attendance in worship, studying the Scriptures, and tithing are great, even necessary, but they do not validate one’s relationship with God; that in being meticulous about dutifully following certain aspects of the law, such as wearing the right attire, and ritual cleansing, it is possible to give the impression that one has it all together when really one does not. In doing all of that, one’s religious pretense can be like wearing a mask, presenting one thing on the outside, while covering up what’s on the inside. This is the exact opposite of the type of authenticity Jesus is calling us to practice in our relationship with Him.

### NOTES

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# No Limits with Pastor Delman

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### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. What are some minor things you have a tendency to put a major focus on when it comes to living out your faith?
2. Who is someone in your life that needs some mercy and compassion? How can you show them that mercy this week?
3. What is one practical step you can take to live out your faith in a more authentic way?

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