

Sermon Guide



“Masks of the Pharisees” February 12, 2023

**“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!”
Matthew 23**

- 1. JC said that Jesus was killed so that we might be known. Jesus’ sacrifice allowed us to admit who we really are— that we often hide behind masks rather than admit and confess our sins, our brokenness, and our hypocrisy.** Do you feel known by God and your community? Regardless of if you do or do not, share about your current experience of being known.
- 2. JC encouraged us to consider if we wear one of the masks of the Pharisees. Even when we are in Christ, we can become pharisaical. Consider JC’s description of the masks of the Pharisees:**
 - 1. Mask #1: Feeling superior or judgmental of others and shutting them out of the Kingdom.**
 - 2. Mask #2: Boasting of the activity of God rather than the movement of God in your life.**
 - 3. Mask #3: Being legalistic about some areas but then neglecting justice, mercy and faithfulness towards others. You might also neglect to disciple others in the areas of justice, mercy and faithfulness.**
 - 4. Mask #4: Outward performance to look good but inward lack of a clean heart.**
 - 5. Mask #5: Outward performance but areas of your life are dead. You don’t know the depth of life He offers.**

Which one of those most resonates with you?
- 3. JC said that confession to God leads to forgiveness. Confession to others leads to healing.** Are there areas you have confessed sin to God but feel a lack of healing of the wounds of sin? Who are the trusted people in your life that you might confess to and receive healing?

Take Your Next Step of Faith. As you think through your discussion today, what is one step of faith you can take this week?