

“Who do you follow?”

Matthew 23: 1 – 39

The Pharisees were the religious leaders and the most influential people in Israel. But the things they taught, mostly man-made traditions, and the way they lived had created more harm than good among the people due to internal rot and hypocrisy. They said one thing, but did another!

Who or what is influencing my thoughts, attitudes, and actions?

The chiastic pattern of the 7 “woes” pronounced by Jesus:

- 1) Refusing to listen to or follow Jesus as Messiah. (v. 13)
- 2) Spreading religion without true relationship with God. (v. 15)
- 3) Lacking understanding of how to apply the Scripture. (v. 16-22)
- 4) Missing the whole point of Scripture. (v. 23-24) ***
- 5) Lacking understanding of how to apply the Scripture. (v. 25-26)
- 6) Spreading religion without true relationship with God. (v. 27-28)
- 7) Refusing to listen to or obey the prophets. (v. 29-32)

The center of the chiastic pattern is the main point we’re to focus on...

Rightly understanding the Scriptures! (and to Whom they point)

Jesus invites everyone...

“Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my “yoke” upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” Matthew 11: 28-29

His invitation is to: learn from his teaching and follow his example!