

The Greatest Spiritual Danger

Matthew 23:1-12 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: ² “The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. ³ So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. ⁴ They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

⁵ “Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; ⁶ they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; ⁷ they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called ‘Rabbi’ by others.

⁸ “But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹ And do not call anyone on earth ‘father,’ for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. ¹⁰ Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah. ¹¹ The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹² For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Introduction

1. If you love someone you’d want to warn them

- 1.1 Jesus warns of
 - (a) Pride
 - (b) Hypocrisy
- 1.2 The difference between inconsistency and hypocrisy

2. Proposition

We need to be warned because the consequences are hidden and lethal

Jesus’ Teaching

1. His final discourse in Matthew

2. The dangers we face, especially as leaders

- 2.1 Hypocrisy
- 2.2 Its evil root – pride

The Threat of Hypocrisy (Matt. 23:1-10)

1. Religious talkers, not doers

- 1.1 Heavy burden - “holiness” in works
- 1.2 Impress people – honour-seeking; title seeking

2. Examples

- 1.1 Then (Rabbi, Father, Teacher)
- 1.2 Now (Pastor, Prophet, Apostle)

The Threat of Pride (Matt. 23:11-12)

- 1. Pride's egocentrism**
- 2. Pride's final result**
- 3. Pride's awful origin**
- 4. It is difficult to see (Lk. 18:9-14)**

Conclusion

- 1. The universal principle – pride will lead to a fall**
- 2. A genuine knowledge of God leads to humility**

Ron's Quotes:

*“The measure of your ministry
Is the people you serve”*

*“You are not qualified to lead
unless you are humble”*