

I Want to Believe, but I'm Not Following all the Rules

July 8, 2018

Scriptures: Matthew 23

Bottom Line: You're good enough, right now, to know God.

Gold-Package Christians . . .

Model an Unrealistic Life (Matt. 23:4)

- But Jesus' burden is light (Matt 11)

Model a joyless life

- But a mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace (Rom. 8:6)

Think knowing enough makes them good enough

- But only Jesus makes you good enough

Next Steps

- Cut yourself some slack

- No more religious fashion shows

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Appetizer

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. Have you ever felt discouraged or excluded because of the high example set by other Christians?

Entree

1. Read **Matthew 23:1-36**
2. What is the main theme running through Jesus' words here?
3. Read **Matthew 11:28-30**
4. How does the way of Jesus differ from the way of the Pharisees?

Dessert

Break into groups of 3-5 and discuss the following questions with each other.

1. When people see you, are they attracted to Jesus, or do they see unattainable standards?
2. What changes can you make this week to show others the kind of life that following Jesus creates?

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