

Session 26: Significance in the Kingdom of Heaven

Matthew 23:1-39; Mark 12:38-44; Luke 20:45-21:4

Jesus Warns about the Scribes and Pharisees

Matthew 23:1-39	Mark 12:38-40	Luke 20:45-47
<p>1 Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples, 2 saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; 3 therefore all that they tell you, do and keep, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things and do not do them. 4 "And they tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger. 5 "But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments. 6 "And they love the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, 7 and respectful greetings in the marketplaces and being called Rabbi by men (cf. Luke 11:43). 8 "But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. 9 "And do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. 10 "Do not be called instructors; for One is your Instructor, that is, Christ. 11 "But the greatest among you shall be your servant (cf. Luke 14:11; 18:14)</p>	<p>38 And in His teaching, He was saying: "Beware of the scribes who want to walk around in long robes, and want respectful greetings in the marketplaces, 39 and best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets, 40 who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers; these will receive</p>	<p>Luke 11:43-44 "Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seat in the synagogues and the respectful greetings in the marketplaces. ++++++ 45 And while all the people were listening, He said to the disciples, 46 "Beware of the scribes, who want to walk around in long robes, and love greetings in the marketplaces, and best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets, 47 who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation."</p>

<p>12 <i>“And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.</i></p>	<p>greater condemnation.”</p>	
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1. What characteristics do you desire in spiritual leaders? Should more be expected from them than from you?

Woes to Scribes and Pharisees

Matthew 23	Luke 11 and Luke 13
<p>13 <i>“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.</i></p> <p>14 [<i>“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense you make long prayers; therefore, you will receive greater condemnation.]</i></p> <p>15 <i>“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.</i></p> <p>16 <i>“Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the sanctuary, that is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the sanctuary is obligated.’</i></p> <p>17 <i>“You fools and blind men! For which is more important, the gold or the sanctuary that sanctified the gold?</i></p> <p>18 <i>“And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, that is nothing, but whoever swears by the offering on it, he is obligated.’</i></p> <p>19 <i>“You blind men, which is more important, the offering, or the altar that sanctifies the offering?</i></p>	

20 *“Therefore, whoever swears by the altar, swears both by the altar and by everything on it.*

21 *“And whoever swears by the sanctuary, swears both by the sanctuary and by Him who dwells within it.*

22 *“And whoever swears by heaven, swears both by the throne of God and by Him who sits upon it.*

23 *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier provisions of the Law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.*

24 *“You blind guides, who strain out a gnat but swallow a camel!*

25 *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence.*

26 *“You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.*

27 *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.*

28 *“In this way, you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.*

29 *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous,*

30 *and say, ‘If we had been living in the days of our fathers, we would not have*

Luke 11

39 *But the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but inside of you, you are full of robbery and wickedness.*

40 *“You foolish ones, did not He who made the outside make the inside also?*

41 *“But give that which is within as charity, and then all things are clean for you.*

42 *“But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithe of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God, but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.”*

43 *“Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seat in the synagogues and the respectful greetings in the marketplaces.”*

44 *“Woe to you! For you are like concealed tombs, and the people who walk over them are unaware of it.”*

45 *Now one of the scholars of the Law answered and said to Him, “Teacher,*

been partners with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.'

31 *"So you bear witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.*

32 *"Fill up, then, the measure of the guilt of your fathers.*

33 *"You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?*

34 *"On account of this, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will flog in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city,*

35 *so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.*

36 *"Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.*

37 *"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you did not want it.*

38 *"Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!*

39 *"For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"*

when You say these things, You insult us too."

46 *But He said, "Woe to you scholars of the Law as well! For you weigh men down with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves will not even touch the burdens with one of your fingers.*

47 *"Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, but your fathers killed them.*

48 *"So you are witnesses and approve the deeds of your fathers; because it was they who killed them, and you build their tombs.*

49 *"For this reason also the wisdom of God said, 'I will send to them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and some they will persecute, so that the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the house of God; yes, I tell you, it shall be charged against this generation.'*

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Luke 13: *34"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you did not want it!*

35*"Behold, your house is left to you desolate, and I say to you, you will not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"*

1. What were the specific actions/attitudes of the Pharisees that Jesus condemned? Do any of these charges apply to us today?
2. What are some actions/attitudes that Christians demonstrate that deny the Gospel?

Jesus Observes the Contributions in the Temple

Mark 12:41-44	Luke 21:1-4
<p><i>41 And He sat down opposite the treasury and began observing how the crowd was putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums.</i></p> <p><i>42 And a poor widow came and put in two lepta, which amount to a quadrans.</i></p> <p><i>43 And calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all those putting money into the treasury;</i></p> <p><i>44 for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on."</i></p>	<p><i>1 And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury.</i></p> <p><i>2 And He saw a poor widow putting in two lepta.</i></p> <p><i>3 And He said, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them.</i></p> <p><i>4 "For they all put in their gifts out of their abundance; but she, out of what she lacked, put in all that she had for living."</i></p>

1. Can you explain the Lord’s appreciation for the widow’s offering? Why did she give? Did she expect her sacrifice to be wisely used of God’s sake?
2. What is the application for a disciple of Jesus?
3. Why do you think that one of the greatest criticisms of the church regards the matter of tithes and offerings? Are these criticisms accurate? How should the church address this matter?

Memory Verse:

“But the greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.”

Matthew 23:11-12