

## Matthew 23

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • September 5, In the year of our Lord, 2018

### I. Matthew 23.1–12 | The Way of the Pharisee

**1** Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, **2** saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. **3** Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. **4** For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. **5** But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. **6** They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, **7** greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi.’ **8** But you, do not be called ‘Rabbi’; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. **9** Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. **10** And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. **11** But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. **12** And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

A. Were the disciples to do as the Pharisees taught?

1. Did the Pharisees teach the truth?
2. Were the disciples to do according to the works of the Pharisees?
  - a) Why were the disciples not to imitate the Pharisees in works?
  - b) Were the Pharisees helpful?
    - (1) Why did the Pharisees do works?
    - (2) What were some of their works?

B. Why did Jesus forbid His disciples from being called Rabbi?

1. Should we call our teachers with Phd’s doctor?
2. Why or why not?
3. Why should we not?

C. What about the title father?

D. Who is the greatest among us?

1. Who is exalted?
2. Who is humbled?

## II. Matthew 23.13–33 | Woes Upon the Scribes and the Pharisees

**13 “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. 14 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. 15 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. 16 Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.’ 17 Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold? 18 And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.’ 19 Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? 20 Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. 21 He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. 22 And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it. 23 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. 24 Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! 25 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. 27 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. 28 Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. 29 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, 30 and say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.’ 31 Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ guilt. 33 Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?”**

- A. Jesus began His ministry of teaching with eight blessings and ends his teaching ministry with eight woes.

B. How would you summarize these woes?

1. Other than the word, “woe,” what word does Jesus used most often?

2. Hypocrite

a) What does the Lord think of hypocrites?

b) How or in what way were they hypocrites?

C. For what did they use religion?

D. [Comment upon each one]

### III. Matthew 23.34–36 | That Generation Epitomized Evil

**34 “Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, 35 that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36 Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.”**

A. What did verse 36 say?

1. Does that explain why the fulfillment of punishment would come upon that generation?

2. What time period did Jesus specify?

B. Do you know when this was fulfilled?

### IV. Matthew 23.37–39 | The Fate of Jerusalem

**37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 See! Your house is left to you desolate; 39 for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’”**

A. What did Jesus think of Jerusalem?

B. How did Jerusalem treat those whom the Lord sent to her?

C. Since they were not willing to be gathered by the Lord, what did He say He would do?

D. When would they see Him again?