

JESUS WARNS OF THE HYPOCRISY OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES MATT 23:1-12 1/16/19

JESUS WARNS THE CROWDS AND HIS DISCIPLES NOT TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLES OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES

V1-3 JESUS WANTED TO HELP THEM UNDERSTAND HOW TO LIVE UNDER SUCH POOR LEADERSHIP MATT 5:20

JESUS WAS CHALLENGING THEM TO PURSUE A RIGHTEOUSNESS GREATER THAN THAT OF THEIR LEADERS THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES WHO HAD SEATED THEMSELVES IN THE CHAIR OF MOSES CLAIMING TO BE THE TEACHERS AND LEADERS OF ISRAEL

THEREFORE ALL THAT THEY TELL YOU DO AND OBSERVE THE WORD OF GOD IS STILL THE WORD OF GOD EVEN IN THE MOUTH OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES BUT DO NOT DO ACCORDING TO THEIR DEEDS FOR THEY SAY THINGS AND DO NOT DO THEM THEY DON'T PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH

V4 THROUGH THE MAN MADE LAWS OF THE PHARISEES LAWS OF THE PHARISEES MATT 15:1-9 THEY INTRODUCED BURDENS OF OBEDIENCE THAT WERE IMPOSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE TO CARRY THEY HAD NO MERCY ON THEM

THEY TIE UP BURDENS AND LAY THEM ON MENS SHOULDERS WHICH WAS THE PLACE OF CARRYING WEIGHTY BURDENS PUTTING THE ENTIRE STRENGTH OF THE BODY UNDER THE BURDEN BUT THEY THEMSELVES ARE UNWILLING TO MOVE PUT NO EFFORT THEM WITH A FINGER IN CONTRAST REPRESENTING THE WEAKEST PART OF THE BODY

THEY PUT FORTH NO EFFORT TO AID OTHERS IN PLEASING GOD THEY WERE PRIDEFUL AND SELF SEEKING JESUS ATTITUDE WAS JUST THE OPPOSITE

V5 -6 NOT ONLY WERE THEY UNSYMPATHETIC BUT THEY WERE ALSO INSECURE THEY CONSTANTLY ADVERTISED THEIR SPIRITUALITY TO GET THE ATTENTION OF OTHERS THEY DID THEIR GOOD DEEDS TO BE SEEN BY OTHERS THEY EVEN FOOLED THEMSELVES INTO BELIEVING THEY WERE RIGHTEOUS

THEY BROADEN THEIR PHYLACTERIES WHICH WERE SMALL BOXES ATTACHED TO THE LEFT ARM OR THE FOREHEAD AND WORN DURING PRAYER THEY CONTAINED SMALL PORTIONS OF SCRIPTURE DEUT 11:18 GOD HAD USED THIS AS A FIGURE OF SPEECH THAT THEY MIGHT BECOME SERVANTS OF THE WORD BUT THEY MADE A PHYSICAL UNIFORM OUT OF IT TO BE NOTICED BY MEN

THEY LENGTHENED THE TASSELS OF THEIR GARMENTS ALL TO BE NOTICED OR THOUGHT OF AS SPIRITUAL THEY LOVE THE PLACES OF HONOR AT BANQUETS AND THE CHIEF SEATS IN THE SYNAGOGUES ALL TO BE SEEN BY MEN

V7-10 THEY LOVE BEING CALLED RABBI BY MEN TITLES LIKE FATHER AND TEACHER THINGS THAT ELEVATE THEM IN THE EYES OF OTHERS

ONLY ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO BE CALLED OUR TEACHER WE ARE ALL BROTHERS LEARNERS AMONG LEARNERS WHEN COMPARED TO JESUS ALL OF US LEADERS AND FOLLOWERS ARE HIS STUDENTS BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST WE ARE TO BE HUMBLE AND NOT SEEK TITLES TO PROMOTE OURSELVES

WE NEED TO REMEMBER THAT WISDOM AND RIGHTEOUSNESS ARE GRACIOUS GIFTS FROM GOD GIVEN TO SERVE OTHERS NOT GLORIFY OURSELVES

WE HAVE ONE LEADER CHRIST HE DESERVES ALL THE GLORY AND HONOR WE ARE SERVANTS OF GOD AND ONE ANOTHER THOSE WHO TRULY UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH ARE HUMBLE AND NOT PRIDEFUL

WE KNOW THAT JESUS THE GREATEST AMONG US DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED BUT TO SERVE AND GIVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM FOR MANY MATT 20:28

V11-12 JESUS REMINDS US THAT THE GREATEST AMONG US WILL BE YOUR SERVANT AND WHOEVER EXHALTS HIMSELF WILL BE HUMBLD AND WHOEVER HUMBLD HIMSELF WILL BE EXHAULTED

LORD HELP US TO KEEP OUR EYES ON YOU AND KEEP US HUMBLE IN ALL OUR WAYS