

## Is It Real or Ritual?

Matthew 23:1-14

Today is Yom Kippur – the Day of Atonement – to Hebrews. It is a most holy and sacred day to them. The Temple is gone and they cannot do much of what the Torah commands – so they have been taught for years they should do such things as fast, pray, seek forgiveness and God will be satisfied. While such things are noble, it is hardly enough to satisfy God. In trying to do something to curry God's favour, all that has happened is these rules (from God and Man) have turned into cold, dead ritualism for the Jews. So it was at the time of Christ – the Pharisees had turned the Scriptures upside down and instituted traditions even then that sought to “share” the same footing with the Word of God in the Torah. Such were the words and deeds of the Pharisees, it was mere rote ritual. Look at some of their signs:

### 1. **When one says: Do as I say not as I do. v. 3-4**

1. The ritual is hearing but not obeying

1. James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.
2. Romans 2:13 (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.

2. It is not enough to have a head knowledge of God's Word – it MUST be applied.

### 2. **When one cares more about Outward Appearance than the Inward Man. v. 5**

1. Here we see their Phylacteries (Teffillin) EXPLAIN

1. Exodus 13:9 And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt.
2. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And **these words**, which I command thee this day, **shall be in thine heart**: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon **the posts of thy house, and on thy gates**. (mezzuah
3. Deuteronomy 11:18 Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.

2. We see their Borders of their Garments (Tallit) EXPLAIN (# of laws and name of God)

1. Includes headwear – Kippa or Yamlaca
2. Numbers 15:38-40 Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: 39 And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring: 40 That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God.
3. Deuteronomy 22:12 Thou shalt make thee fringes upon the four quarters of thy vesture, wherewith thou coverest thyself.

While God wanted the Hebrews to see these things they were symbolic. God especially wanted His Word upon their hearts. So again, it goes back to hearing, hiding and applying the Word of God.

3. Jesus kept the law, but not to BE SEEN – He wore these items no doubt.

1. Matthew 9:20-22 And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: 21 For she

said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. 22 But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

2. Malachi 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.
  4. These types are called by Jesus TOMBS FULL OF BONES see Matt. 23:27-28
  5. Spend more time in front of a looking glass mirror, rather than the mirror of the soul!
  6. They will exercise eat right and be fastidious about calories, but shun the Milk and Meat of the Word and the Bread and Water of Life.
- 3. When one cares more about the applause of Man, rather than obedience unto God v. 6-7**
1. Galatians 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.
  2. Luke 16:15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.
    1. Consider the Sin of the Love of Titles.
      1. Rabbi, Father, Doctor and Master = Teacher See - Acts 5:34 Then stood there up one in the council, a Pharisee, named Gamaliel, a doctor of the law, had in reputation among all the people, and commanded to put the apostles forth a little space;
      2. I got an education to help me dig deeper, not to have a title.
      3. Reverend - Psalms 111:9 He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.
- 4. When one cares More about showy words rather than Scriptural Words v14**
1. 2 Peter 2:18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.
  2. Jude 1:16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.
  3. Who are we praying to or for?
    1. Luke 18:10-14 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. 13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.
  4. Text in Church, Call in church, Whisper in church all the while God is trying to speak to us. God is trying to speak to our hearts, yet our thoughts are elsewhere, we are here only going through the motions. Is that all we've become is Ritualists? If so we might as well be Catholics Hail Mary Full of Grace, Our Father Which Art In Heaven. The Lord is My Shepherd or Jews *Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam asher kidishanu b'mitz'votav v'tzivanu l'hit'ateif ba-tzitzit*

SO IS YOUR FAITH REAL TODAY? ARE YOU EXPECTING TO HEAR FROM GOD OR EXPECTANTLY WAITING FOR THIS TO BE OVER SO YOU CAN PICK UP YOUR LIFE WHERE YOU LEFT OFF? IS IT REAL? OR IS IT RITUAL. ARE YOU OBSERVING YOM KIPPUR OR DO YOU KNOW THE TRUE ATONEMENT THE ONE NAMED JESUS WHO GAVE HIMSELF FOR YOU AS THE LAMB OF GOD AND THE TRUE ATONING SACRIFICE.