

Judgment on False Spiritual Leaders

Matthew 23:13 But **woe** unto you, **scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye **shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.** 14 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. 15 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves. 16 **Woe unto you, ye blind guides,** which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! 17 Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold? 18 And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty. 19 Ye fools and blind: for whether *is* greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift? 20 Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon. 21 And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein. 22 And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon. 23 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. 24 Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. 25 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. 26 *Thou* blind Pharisee, cleanse first that *which is* within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. 27 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead *men's* bones, and of all uncleanness. 28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. 29 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, 30 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. 31 Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. 32 Fill

"Judgment on False Spiritual Leaders"

Matthew 23:13-33

August 30, 2015 - Sunday AM

[Vision Baptist Church in Alpharetta, GA](#)

Judgment on False Spiritual Leaders

- ye up then the measure of your fathers. 33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?
- . There ought to be a high respect for true men of God
 - . They were to hold people like Epaphroditus in reputation Philippians 2:**29** Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and **hold such in reputation: 30** Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.
 - . God's men were to be esteemed I Thessalonians 5:**12** And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; **13** And to **esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.** And be at peace among yourselves.
 - . They were to be considered worthy of double honor
I Timothy 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted **worthy of double honour**, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.
 - . However God is quite angry with those who pretend to His men but are really servants of Satan
 - . The word woe used here is a kind of groan, outcry of anger, pain, judgment. It expresses grief, dissatisfaction, the fear of losing your life
 - . He uses the word hypocrite over and over. They were putting on a false front, pretending, deceitful, actors
1. They are judged for keeping people from getting to God and heaven 13 But **woe** unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye **shut up the kingdom of heaven against men:** for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.
 - a. These false teachers are not saved and not going to heaven
 - i. The biggest threat of false teachers is that they keep people from the gospel
 - ii. It is like a shell game, slight of hand. You are so busy looking at one thing that you miss the important thing

"Judgment on False Spiritual Leaders"

Matthew 23:13-33

August 30, 2015 - Sunday AM

[Vision Baptist Church in Alpharetta, GA](#)

Judgment on False Spiritual Leaders

- iii. They use their position, their teaching, and their religion to keep others from getting to heaven
 1. They may not intend for anyone to go to Hell
 2. I highly doubt that they think that way
 3. But they change the focus from man's sin and God's provision of salvation on the cross
 - b. They have made religion the end, the goal, and preserving it is in their best interest
 - i. They may do good things
 - ii. They may build morality
 - iii. They may make people more comfortable
 - iv. But unless they get them to see their sin and need of a Savior they will just be numbing the pain for a while
 - v. Focusing on this world will cause you to be destroyed in the next
 - c. As soon as John the Baptist had come these religious leaders had done what they could to stop him
 - d. Instead of guiding people to Jesus who was God come to earth they spent their time trying to get people away from Jesus
 - e. They should be sharing truth and showing people how to get to God
 - f. Instead they do not know truth and hinder others from teaching and preaching the truth
2. They are judged for taking advantage of people financially 14 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.
- a. They take the widow's money or take advantage of people financially
 - i. They were teaching things just so they could make money Titus 1:11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, **teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.**

"Judgment on False Spiritual Leaders"

Matthew 23:13-33

August 30, 2015 - Sunday AM

[Vision Baptist Church in Alpharetta, GA](#)

Judgment on False Spiritual Leaders

- ii. They fake it all to get money II Peter 2:3 And through covetousness shall they with **feigned words make merchandise of you:** whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.
 - iii. God's men are not to do ministry for money I Peter 5:2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; **not for filthy lucre,** but of a ready mind;
- b. They make long prayers
 - i. They know how to appear religious
 - ii. They want to be seen and heard for their praying
 - iii. They pretend to be spiritual and do it all to be seen and respected not for God
 - c. They pretend to be talking to God for people but it is only to get money
 - d. This is the prosperity gospel already at work
 - e. They will be judged of God for how they hurt others instead of helping
 - i. He says that they will receive the greater judgment, damnation
 - ii. God will not allow these fakes to go unpunished
3. False spiritual leaders are judged for making up ridiculous rules 15 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye compass sea and land to **make one proselyte**, and when he is made, ye make him **twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.** 16 **Woe unto you, ye blind guides**, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the **temple, it is nothing;** but whosoever shall swear by the **gold of the temple, he is a debtor!** 17 **Ye fools and blind:** for **whether is greater,** the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold? 18 And, Whosoever shall swear by the **altar, it is nothing;** but whosoever sweareth **by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty.** 19 Ye **fools and blind:** for whether **is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?** 20 Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon. 21 And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein. 22 And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon.
- a. The false teachers are judged for working hard at spreading the lie

"Judgment on False Spiritual Leaders"

Matthew 23:13-33

August 30, 2015 - Sunday AM

[Vision Baptist Church in Alpharetta, GA](#)

Judgment on False Spiritual Leaders

- i. They have not accepted the gospel
 - ii. They keep people from getting to the gospel
 - iii. Then they spread their own brand of religion rather than what Jesus taught
 - b. They played games with their swearing by trying to decide which oath was of more value
 - c. Jesus told His people to answer yes or no and stop this false swearing Matthew 5:37
But let your communication be, Yea, yea; **Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.**
 - i. God is a God of truth Hebrews 6:18 That by two immutable things, in which ***it was impossible for God to lie***, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:
 - ii. Satan is the father of lies John 8:44 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because **there is no truth in him**. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for **he is a liar, and the father of it**.
 - d. The real truth was that the religious people were just playing games to cover up their lying
 - e. They saw no real value in the things that were of eternal value to God
 - f. They were blind guides leading blind people to hell
4. False religious leaders are judged for getting hung up on the picky things and miss the really big stuff 23 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye **pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin**, and have **omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith**: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. 24 Ye blind guides, which **strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel**.
- a. They were majoring on the minors and minoring on the majors 24 Ye blind guides, which **strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel**.
 - b. They did tithe the little stuff and should have
 - i. It was the way the nation and men of God were supported
 - ii. They tithed on the leaves from the garden herbs and spices

“Judgment on False Spiritual Leaders”

Matthew 23:13-33

August 30, 2015 - Sunday AM

[Vision Baptist Church in Alpharetta, GA](#)

Judgment on False Spiritual Leaders

- iii. Being very careful to count out the leaves but not worrying about the larger things God gave them
 - c. They forgot the Word of God, the law
 - d. They forgot judgment or what was really right Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; And what doth the Lord require of thee, **But to do justly, and to love mercy, And to walk humbly with thy God?**
 - e. They forgot mercy and faith
 - f. Time to stop picking and choosing what we like in the Word of God and just believe it and act on it
5. False teachers are judged for not being who they portrayed themselves to be 25 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye make clean the **outside of the cup** and of the platter, but **within they are full of extortion and excess.** 26 *Thou* blind Pharisee, cleanse first that *which is* within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. 27 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed **appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones,** and of all uncleanness. 28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.
- a. They are worried about appearances
 - ii. It is not so important how clean the dish is if what is in the dish is contaminated
 - iii. They worried about how things looked but not how they really were
 - b. They are not really clean at all
 - c. Graveyards can be made to look really pretty but they are just home to rotting bodies
 - d. It doesn't matter how you make yourself look to men God knows what is going on in your heart
6. The false religious leaders are judged because they fake love for the truth and those that preached it yet hate Jesus and the truth 29 **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, 30 And say, **If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not**

"Judgment on False Spiritual Leaders"

Matthew 23:13-33

August 30, 2015 - Sunday AM

[Vision Baptist Church in Alpharetta, GA](#)

Judgment on False Spiritual Leaders

have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. 31 Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. 32 Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. 33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, **how can ye escape the damnation of hell?**

- a. They claim that they would have loved the prophets had they of lived in their day
 - i. They pretended to stand on the truth preached by the prophets
 - ii. Jesus said that they were just like their parents
 - iii. They would have killed the prophets just like they were about to do to Him
 - b. He said that they were going to hell
 - i. They were deceivers, serpents, vipers
 - ii. They were as wicked as the devil
 - iii. They hid who they really were
 - iv. They waited for the right moment to attack
 - v. They really hated the truth, God, and Jesus Himself
 - c. How could they escape Hell knowing how they were
 - d. They had not made a clean break with what they knew was a lie
 - e. They were not standing for the truth today
7. We know that God will judge false teachers and we should hate the things that He hates
- a. Doing anything that might hinder the spread of the gospel to all the world and to all people
 - b. The prosperity gospel and in any way manipulating people to give
 - c. We should recognize that much that is done in the name of Christ is not by studying the Scripture to make sure truth is being spread
 - d. We should be careful about making up ridiculous rules that aren't clearly taught in Scripture
 - e. We should major on what Jesus majored on and not get hung up in the picky stuff
 - f. We should be the same person in public and private
 - g. No faking a love for truth in the past that is not lived out in the present

"Judgment on False Spiritual Leaders"

Matthew 23:13-33

August 30, 2015 - Sunday AM

[Vision Baptist Church in Alpharetta, GA](#)

Judgment on False Spiritual Leaders

- h. God judges false teachers because they pull you away from what He has done on the cross of Calvary
 - i. They emphasize all sorts of things except for the cross of Jesus
 - ii. They lift up themselves and not Jesus
 - iii. They bring judgment because Jesus alone is to be magnified

“Judgment on False Spiritual Leaders”

Matthew 23:13-33

August 30, 2015 - Sunday AM

[Vision Baptist Church in Alpharetta, GA](#)