

Wheelersburg Baptist Church 11/24/2024

Matthew 23:13-22 “Jesus Exposes the Hypocrite”

Series: “*The Danger of Being Religious: Jesus and the Pharisees in Matthew 23*”

I. A hypocrite possesses a self-serving view of God’s _____ (13-14).

- A. The Pharisees refused to get right with God on His _____ (13).
- B. The Pharisees made it hard for others to get _____ with God.
- C. The Pharisees settled for religious _____ (14).

II. A hypocrite possesses a self-serving view of _____ (15).

- A. A Pharisee is zealous about recruiting _____.
- B. A Pharisee wants people to be like _____.

III. A hypocrite possesses a self-serving view of the _____ (16-22).

- A. The Pharisees love their _____ (16-19).
- B. Jesus shows that the system must _____ to the Scriptures (20-22).

Make It Personal: Two responses are in order.

1. Let’s thank the Lord that He tells us the _____ about ourselves.
2. Let’s thank the Lord that He has provided a _____ for all of our sins, including our hypocrisy.

Community Group Discussion:

1. In our current series, “*The Danger of Being Religious*,” we’re considering carefully Jesus’ words concerning the scribes and Pharisees whom He calls “hypocrites.” What is a hypocrite? What does it feel like to be in the presence of a hypocrite?
2. Take time to read again Jesus’ words in Matthew 23:13-22, and then review the main points of today’s sermon outline. What stood out most to you from this message?
3. In verse 13 Jesus said that the religious leaders “shut the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces”. What does that mean? What were they doing? Can we do the same, and if so, how?
4. In verse 15 Jesus said the scribes and Pharisees worked hard to “make a proselyte”. What is a proselyte and how do you make one? How does Jesus’ warning apply to us? Can parents ever be guilty of seeking to “make a proselyte” out of their children, and if so, how?
5. Jesus uses the word “swear” about nine times in verses 16-22. What does it mean to “swear” in this context? What were the religious leaders doing, and what did it reveal about them, according to Jesus? How does this apply to us?
6. Some might say that Jesus is not very kind in this passage, that He’s rather harsh. Would you agree? Why is Jesus talking this way? Why do we need a Savior that talks this way?