

ARE YOU A HYPOCRITE?

MATTHEW 23:14-34

INTRODUCTION:

1. Matthew 23 is a passage where Jesus warns about pretending to be something that you are not.
2. Hypocrite (hypokrites): An actor who performed on stage. Jesus used it to refer to those who pretended to be religious.
3. Applying self-examination, do you recognize yourself in the descriptions Jesus used?

I. THE CHARACTERIZATION OF HYPOCRISY

- A. Hypocrites want you to be just like them.
 1. **MATTHEW 23.13:** “*You shut up the kingdom of heaven against men...*” (cf. Matt. 16.18,19; 1 Cor. 6.9)
 2. **MATTHEW 23.15:** “*you make him twice as much the son of hell as yourselves*” (cf. Gal. 6.13)
- B. Hypocrites redefine what is right and wrong.
 1. **MATTHEW 23.16-22:** They have their own value system.
 2. Do you have your own value system?
- C. Hypocrites only do what is easy.
 1. **MATTHEW 23.23,24:** “*neglected the weightier matters*”
 2. Do you only do what is easy? (Matt. 23.4; Micah 6.8)
- D. Hypocrites emphasize the outside.
 1. **MATTHEW 23.25-28:** “*you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish...*” (cf. Matt. 23.5)
 2. Do you focus on the outside? (1 Pet. 3.3,4; 2 Cor. 4.16)
- E. Hypocrites are holier than thou.
 1. **MATTHEW 23.29,30:** “*If we had lived in the days of the prophets...*” (v. 34).
 2. Do you see yourself as better than others? (Acts 7.51,52)

II. WHY ARE PEOPLE HYPOCRITICAL?

- A. Hypocrites live for the praise of men. (Matt. 6.2,5,16)
- B. Hypocrites cannot escape the judgment. (Matt. 23.33)

CONCLUSION: Jesus wants true followers, not pretenders.

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”

-Mark 16.15

November 27, 2022

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

This is arguably the favorite time of year for the most of us. It is more than just the music, decoration, and good food that makes this time of year so special. There seems to be a shift in attitude as people are generally more polite and more generous (unless you're trying to reach for that last turkey leg). Charity organizations understand this change in mood as they come out in force to solicit donations.

As wonderful a time the holiday season is, we ought to be reminded that generosity and giving is not something we do once a year. Nor is politeness a seasonal attribute. We ought to always show kindness to others, for “*love does not behave rudely*” (1 Cor. 13.5). The compassion we show toward others is not unique to the cold wintery months. Instead we should always remember “*to do good and to share*” (Heb. 13.16). The gentiles were condemned because they “*did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful*” (Rom. 1.21). We ought to always be thankful for the fellowship they enjoy with those of “*like precious faith*” (2 Pet. 1.1). We continually appreciate the love and grace of God extended to us (Col. 3.15).

As always, we are thinking of our brethren and thankful to be a part of a wonderful spiritual family (Eph. 3.15). Enjoy this time of year, but do not forget that the blessings of God extend all year around (Eph. 1.3).

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THE WEeping PROPHEt

JEREMIAH 4:19

INTRODUCTION:

1. The prophet Jeremiah is often referred to as the weeping prophet. (Jer. 4.19; 8.18).
2. What made the prophecies of Jeremiah so filled with weeping?

I. THE CHARACTER OF JEREMIAH

- A. The man.
 1. **JEREMIAH 1.1:** “Jeremiah the son of Hilkiyah”
 2. Jeremiah was unpopular. (Jer. 15.10)
 3. Jeremiah was unmarried. (Jer. 16.1-4)
- B. The message. (Jer. 1.2)
 1. **JEREMIAH 1.2:** “*to whom the word of the LORD came*”
 2. Jeremiah preached repentance. (Jer. 3.8,10)
 3. Jeremiah preached lamentations. (Jer. 4.6,8; 6.22,23,26)
- C. The ministry. (Jer. 1.2,3)
 1. Jeremiah’s ministry spanned the reign of five kings. Three of them are mentioned. (Jer. 1.2,3)
 2. For sixty-six years, Jeremiah preached a negative message of “repent or die” (Jer. 52.31).

II. THE CONCERN OF JEREMIAH

- A. Jeremiah was concerned about the future.
 1. He felt inadequate to carry out God’s will because of his lack of ability and his age. (Jer. 1.4-6)
 2. God reminded him that “*I am with you*” (Jer. 1.7,8).
 3. Like Jeremiah, Moses also felt inadequate. (Ex. 4.10,13)
 4. Do you have concern about your future? God promises that He will always be with you. (Heb. 13.5,6)
- B. Jeremiah was concerned about the past.
 1. The nation of Judah was about to face destruction as a consequence of their past sins. (Jer. 4.5-8,14,17)
 2. Do you have concern over past decisions? (Heb. 10.27)
 3. Judgment awaits those who have not resolved the sins of their past. (Num. 32.23; Gal. 6.7)
 3. Spiritual provisions. (Rom. 5.17; Titus 2.11; Eph. 1.7)

CONCLUSION: If you have concerns for your future because of decisions made in the past, it is time to change.

“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN”

Does it seem strange? The beatitudes begin with declaration. Jesus says that you are blessed. Literally, the word is defined as “happy.” Each of these beatitudes begins with a declaration that you are happy. It then gives a description. The ones who are truly happy are those who mourn. Does that not seem strange?

Naomi lost her husband and mourned deeply. Yet her mourning never caused her to be happy. In fact, she told those in the city of Bethlehem, “*Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me*” (Ruth 1.20). Naomi was not filled with joy but with bitterness. How can Jesus say that those who are truly happy are those who mourn?

The concept of mourning does is not being used in reference to the sorrow and grief of loss. Jesus is not saying to us that those who are truly happy are those who have lost loved ones. Instead, the mourning that Jesus references is the great sadness and loss that is felt due to sin. It was this kind of spiritual mourning used in James 4. He refers to sinners and the double-minded in verse 8. He then writes, “*Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom*” (James 4.8,9).

Why does Jesus say that those who mourn over their sins are happy? The sermon on the mount where Jesus makes this statement was preached at the beginning of His ministry (Matt. 4.17). This was a time when the good news of the gospel was about to be made known. Though sin has brought the fear of God’s eternal judgment, a solution for sin has come.

Jesus came to “*seek and to save that which is lost*” (Luke 19.10). Those who are feeling hopeless over their sinful condition can be truly happy because salvation is now being made available to them (Eph. 2.11-13). Is it any wonder why the eunuch “*went on his way rejoicing*” after being baptized (Acts 8.39).

In contrast, Jesus said, “*woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep*” (Luke 6.25). Those who are not troubled over their sin but find great joy in the pleasures of the world will find themselves mourning and weeping when they face the judgment of God (Matt. 8.12).

David had a broken spirit and a contrite heart (Ps. 51.17). In his great sorrow, he wrote, “*I acknowledge my transgression, and my sin is always before me*” (Ps. 51.3). In Psalm 32, David refers to the same feelings of guilt, but he begins by writing, “*Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven*” (Ps. 32.1). David mourned over his sin. In his grief, he sought God’s forgiveness and rejoiced because he was forgiven. forgiveness. In the same way, we are blessed when we mourn.