

King and Messiah Week 29 (Matthew 23)

How would you define hypocrisy and why is it almost universally looked down upon?

Question 1: Do I practice what I preach? (23:1-4)

What behavior of the Pharisees and scribes did Jesus first condemn?

Read James 2:14-16. What is the connection between faith and works?

Question 2: Who am I trying to please? (23:5-7)

In general, who were the religious leaders trying to impress?

It has been said that 'character is who you are in the dark'. What does your everyday, normal, behind the scenes lifestyle demonstrate about your relationship with God?

Question 3: Do I spiritually rank myself? (23:8-10)

Why is it such a temptation to compare ourselves to others (whether highly or lowly), rather than finding our identity in Him?

Question 4: Am I other focused? (23:11-12)

Every interaction we have is a chance to make a difference (small or large) in another person's life. What opportunities do you have on a weekly basis to be other-focused?

Question 5: Am I leading people to Jesus? (23:13-15)

We learned last week that Jesus is the cornerstone (Acts 4:11-12). The Pharisees completely missed that. Why is it important for us to maintain a strong relationship with Christ in order for us to see and take opportunities to share Him with others?

Question 6: Do I only honor God when it's convenient? (23:16-24)

How should being a part of a community of faith help us see our personal blind spots?

Question 7: Is my focus on outward appearances or inward holiness? (23:25-28)

If purity begins in the heart, then how does that affect how we battle sin?

Question 8: Do I take God's warnings seriously? (23:29-39)

The Pharisees and scribes are good examples of people who completely missed or ignored the counsel and warnings of God. As you read God's Word, how sensitive are you to acting on it?

Response:

How can we be diligent about holiness without expecting perfection?