

## **Matthew 23**

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! - Matthew 23:13ff (NKJV)

PREVIEW: In Matthew 23, Jesus reveals the true desire of the Pharisees—to be seen by man. Jesus pronounces eight woes on the Pharisees and laments over Jerusalem, announcing their destruction, but He leaves them with a hope.

### **Matthew 22 Outline:**

Jesus Characterizes the Pharisees - Read Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus Condemns the Pharisees - Read Matthew 23:13-36

Jesus Laments Over Jerusalem - Read Matthew 23:37-39

### **Jesus Characterizes the Pharisees - Read Matthew 23:1-12**

1. Jesus said that the scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' seat, or have seated themselves in a position of authority over God's people, although they were not called by God into that position. What does Jesus tell the multitudes and His disciples to do and to not do (v. 3)?
2. Jesus said the scribes and Pharisees bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders (v. 4). What were these burdens? Why were they hard to bear? (See Matthew 15:2-6 and Acts 15:5-10.)

3. What was the reason Jesus gives to explain the true motive behind the works of the Pharisees (v. 5)? What things did they do because of this motive (vv. 5-7)? (See also Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18.)
4. What three things does Jesus instruct the multitudes and disciples not to be called and why (vv. 8-10)? (See also John 14:26, John 1:12-13, Romans 8:14-17, 2 Corinthians 6:18, and 1 John 2:27.)
5. What exemplary actions does Jesus say the multitudes and disciples should do instead of doing what the scribes and Pharisees do (vv. 11-12)?
6. What practical steps can you take to do the exemplary actions Jesus said the multitudes and disciples should do?

## **Jesus Condemns the Pharisees - Read Matthew 23:13-36**

7. Jesus pronounces eight woes upon the scribes and Pharisees. What does “woe” mean?

8. The eight woes are contrasts to the eight “blessed” statements given by Jesus in Matthew 5:3-10. What is the first woe pronounced upon the scribes and Pharisees? See contrasting verse Matthew 5:3. Why were the scribe and Pharisees deserving of this first woe (v. 13)? (See also Matthew 23:4 and Luke 11:52)
  
9. What is the second woe (v. 14)? See contrasting verse Matthew 5:4. How were the scribes and Pharisees deserving of this woe? (See also Matthew 6:5-6, 2 Timothy 3:6, and Titus 1:10-11.)
  
10. What is the third woe (v. 15)? See contrasting verse Matthew 5:5. How were the scribes and Pharisees deserving of this woe? (See also Galatians 3:1-3, 4:9-10, 17, and Romans 10:1-3.)
  
11. What is the fourth woe (vv. 16-22)? See contrasting verse Matthew 5:6. How were the scribes and Pharisees deserving of this woe? (See also Leviticus 19:12; Numbers 30:2, and Matthew 5:33-34.)

12. What is the fifth woe (vv. 23-24)? See contrasting verse Matthew 5:7. How were the scribes and Pharisees deserving of this woe? (See also 1 Samuel 15:22; Hosea 6:6; Micah 6:8, and Matthew 9:13, 12:7.)
  
13. What is the sixth woe (vv. 25-26)? See contrasting verse Matthew 5:8. How were the scribes and Pharisees deserving of this woe? (See also Matthew 15:19-20, Mark 7:4; Luke 11:39, 2 Corinthians 7:1, and James 4:8.)
  
14. What is the seventh woe (vv. 27-28)? See contrasting verse Matthew 5:9. How were the scribes and Pharisees deserving of this woe? (See also Matthew 12:14, Mark 3:6, and Acts 23:1-3.)
  
15. What is the eighth woe (vv. 29-35)? See contrasting verse Matthew 5:10. How were the scribes and Pharisees deserving of this woe? (See also 2 Chronicles 24:20-21, Acts 5:40, and 1 John 3:12.)

## **Jesus Laments Over Jerusalem - Read Matthew 23:37-39**

16. Why does Jesus refer to Jerusalem as “the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!” (v. 37)? (See also 2 Chronicles 24:20-21, 36:15-16, Nehemiah 9:26, and Matthew 21:35-36)
  
17. What was Jesus’ desire for the nation of Israel, here represented by its capital, Jerusalem (v. 37)? (See also Psalm 17:8, 91:4, and Isaiah 49:5.)
  
18. God deeply desired to bring the nation to Himself, but they were not willing (v. 37, see also Isaiah 49:5). What two things resulted from their unwillingness to be gathered to Him (v. 38-39)?
  
19. Although Jesus has been rejected by the nation (see also John 1:11), He offered a future hope for them (v. 39). What is that hope and when will it happen? (See Luke 21:24 and Romans 11:25-26.)