

MATTHEW 23; August 12; Hate Being a Hypocrite

ANALYSIS:

1. Why did Jesus forbid his disciples to accept any of the three popular titles which the scribes and Pharisees loved? _____

2. What word does Jesus repeat seven of the eight times He pronounces "Woe" on the scribes and Pharisees? _____
3. Although the scribes and Pharisees paid tithes on their herb gardens of mint, anise, and cummin, what more important matters did they omit?

4. How did Jesus say the prophets, wise men and scribes He would send would be treated? _____
5. Upon whom would God's judgment come because of the righteous blood shed? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Jesus called the scribes and Pharisees hypocrites seven times in this chapter; who is a hypocrite whom He condemns? A hypocrite is an insincere person; he/she professes beliefs, feelings or virtues that he does not hold or possess. The hypocrite pretends to be better than he/she really is. This person masquerades as spiritual but lacks spiritual fruit. Jesus loathed the religious deception of professional religionists.

How do we avoid even a hint of hypocrisy in our own lives? Don't neglect the basics! First, keep daily spiritual exercises: confession, meditation, prayer, self-examination (Remember David!). Second, adapt a servant's attitude in all you do (Lu 17:10). Third, refresh your soul with spiritual music by both listening and singing. Fourth, seek the challenge and accountability of godly friends.

HELP:

1. Rabbi -- for one is your Master, even Christ. Father -- for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Master -- for one is your Master, even Christ (vs 8-10)
2. Hypocrites (vs 13, 14, 15, 23, 25, 27, 29).
3. Judgment, mercy, and faith (v 23).
4. Kill, crucify and scourge (v 34).
5. Upon you (v 35) meaning this generation (v 36).