

Sermon Outline

“Warning Against Hypocrisy”

Matthew 23:1-12

- I.** Structure and content of Chapter 23
 - A** Jesus warns the crowds against Pharisaical behavior vv. 1-12
Hypocrisy to be replaced with humility v. 12
 - B** Seven woes pronounced on the Scribes & Pharisees vv. 13-36
Justice, mercy and faith are the heart of the Law v. 23
 - C** Lament over Jerusalem vv. 37-39
The House of Israel is left desolate v. 38

- II.** The necessity of hearing and obeying God vv. 1-3a
Moses’ chair – the importance of hearing God’s Word
Cf. Num 12:1-9
We must listen with discernment
Is 8:18-20; Dt 13:1-5; 18:18-22; Acts 17:10-11

- III.** Avoiding the bad example of hypocrites vv. 3b-7 (*cf.* Mt 7:15-20)
Follow godly instruction but not ungodly examples v. 3b
Dictate burdens to others they won’t shoulder themselves
They focus on the outward appearance

- IV.** Three pitfalls to avoid vv. 8-11
Pride of knowledge (*Rabbi*) v. 8
Pride of presumptive patriarchy (*Father*) v. 9
Pride of authority (*Master*) v. 10

Solution: be a servant v. 11 (*cf.* 20:25-28)

- V.** Conclusion: God will exalt the humble v. 12 (*cf.* Mt 18:4)
Prov 16:18-19; Ps 138:6; Jas 4:5-6; I Pet 5:5-6.

The greatest of Christian virtues are integrity and humility.