

Refrigerator Notes 02 November 2014
Will We Walk in Humility?
Matthew 23:1-12

1. The religious leaders of Jesus' time did not follow the Laws of Moses they preached, but insisted that others would do as they said
2. Because the leaders were deceitful in obeying the laws, Jesus was calling them out as being hypocrites, much like the rebellious Nation of Israel (Isaiah 1)
3. Who were the religious leaders? The Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes who could possibly be compared to the church leaders today, i.e. the Elders, Deacons, Trustees and others in the church who occupy positions of leadership
4. Just as Jesus was calling out the religious leaders of His time, there are those in the church who are not in leadership positions, but are watching those chosen leaders in our churches today
5. The leaders in Jesus' time were considered to be the teachers of the law, but they themselves not only added to the laws created by God, but they formed their own religion, a religion made up of rules and ideas that lead to false teachings
6. However, the leaders in today's churches not only do not know the commandments or word of God, but are influenced by the so called leaders in the church, who have been taught various religion traditions (theology) that have nothing to do with the Word of God
7. At stake for the leadership in the church is their character and integrity, but more than that, their humility
8. Character can be changed but ones integrity must remain righteous (we need to campaign daily)
9. The religious leaders of Jesus' time did all the right things, but for the wrong reasons
10. The text spoke of whitewash tombs – tombs that hold the dead. Are our churches whitewashed tombs and do our leaders appear righteous to others, but within are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness?
11. Are our leaders today often times mimics of those that Christ admonished in His time, whom were blind to their own hypocrisy?
12. No wonder people in the church often look for ways to sow discord in the church, because of their own discontent!
13. When we sow discord, we become frauds like the leaders in Jesus' time
14. Jesus was trying to teach the people, along with the disciples, the importance of integrity and not have the people to focus on things that were not important to God
15. You ask what is important to God Justice, Mercy, Love and Faithfulness, these four things encompass humility
16. God's wrath is not just contained in natural disasters – DPC it's time to WAKE-UP, because God is growing displeased with us much like the Nation of Israel of old
17. Whoever exalts himself will be humble and whoever humbles himself will be exalted, God cannot work with hearts filled with pride, lust, greed, envy, etc.