

Refrigerator Notes 05 November 2017
The Hypocrisy that Lies Beyond"
Matthew 23:1-16

1. In a series of (7) denunciations, each beginning with the systematic "Woe to You," Jesus chastises the leaders (Pharisees and Scribes) who fail to live up to the actions they taught: 'if greatness is what you seek, it means to be a servant and "those who humble themselves who will be exalted".
2. We can see the issues of controversy in the church where leaders preach "do as I say do but not as I do" – Leaders Jesus is watching us.
3. As Jesus' rants, He clearly wants us contemporary hearers to understand what it means to follow the Messiah.
4. "He who wants to be first must be last" if you are a true servant of the Lord.
5. Jesus outlines and exposes the works of the scribes and the Pharisees, even like the preachers and teachers among the multitude in Christianity today – nothing seems to change.
6. So, how does God word apply to us Christians today in case you missed what I said about the Pharisees and scribes.
7. From this passage there are two significant critiques Jesus invites us modern day Christians to hear (1) The Scribes and Pharisees lack of obedience to the Torah (1st five books of the bible) as they teach it to the people; and (2) the motivation in doing the Law as a way to gain human favor and honor for themselves from others.
8. Telling people "I'll pray for you" without actually praying for them – Guilty! I suggested don't wait to pray later but pray for them now.
9. Attending church on Sunday but ignoring God's voice the rest of the week – A Big ouch! Showing up for church every Sunday does not make you right with God.
10. Praying for God's provision when we have yet to use what God has already provided – God is not a ATM machine or your personal genie!
11. Telling people that God will never give you anything you can't handle – don't twist God's word - 1 Corinthians 10:13 is a verse that strictly speaks about temptation – God is going to give us all somethings we cannot handle so we can rely on God!
12. Being Judgmental – one of the few sins Jesus repeatedly warns His followers to avoid!
13. You do not repent of sin, because you act as if you are sinless.
14. Your salvation is based on your works, not on Jesus (we all have not arrived or did not arrived when you found Jesus yet, but we are recovering sinners).
15. You believe outsiders should conform to certain lifestyles, before they are accepted as "Christian".
16. If someone tries to rebuke you, you get angry or offended – Modern day Pharisees are not receptive to rebuke because it undermines their external righteousness.
17. Those who follow the Pharisees keep others from entering the Kingdom of God.
18. Here is the reality ... Pharisees still exist today they start with good intentions and motives that morph into something less desirable by God.
19. I suggested that as Christians, we all need to be good Bereans – iron sharpens iron.
20. Take careful note of Jesus Christ actions and not the actions of the preacher or teacher.
21. Give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good and His mercy endures forever.