

# **Failures of Leadership**

## **Part One**

**Matthew 23:13-28**

# Who is Jesus?

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gentle...**

**Meek and  
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**Kind, caring,  
gentle...  
Meek and  
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**The  
righteous  
judge**

## Nothing Held Back

*...“hypocrites, children of hell, blind fools, whitewashed tombs, full of evil and wickedness, and serpents and a brood of vipers.”*

## Jesus Approaches Jerusalem

...He wept over it: “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.  
<sup>43</sup>For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side <sup>44</sup>and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

(Lk 19:41-44) ESV

## **A Warning and Call to Repentance**

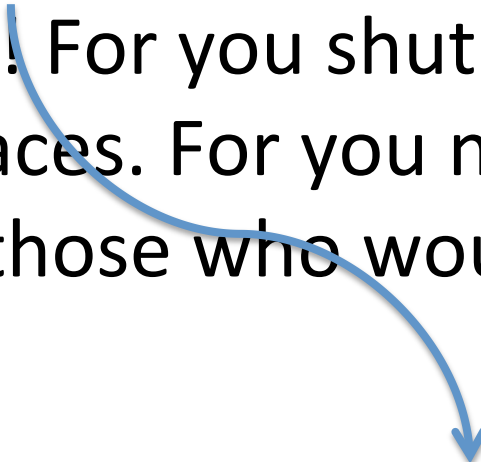
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Mt 23:13 (ESV)

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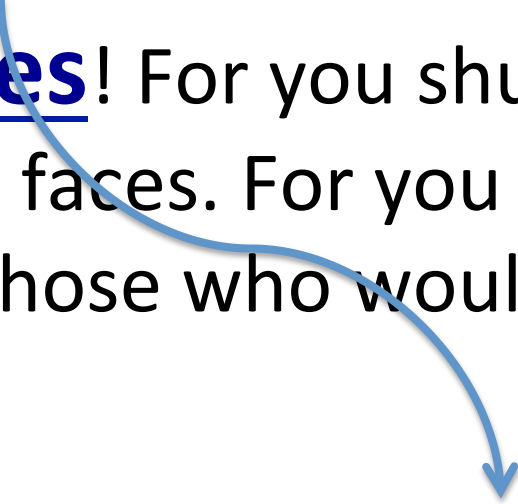
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*Actor*  
*a pretender*



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- Respected religious leaders

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“You yourselves do not enter, and the reason you do not is that you do not recognize your sin and your need for a Saviour.”

# Getting to Heaven

**Good works,  
Good person**

# Getting to Heaven

~~Good works,  
Good person~~

✓  
God's mercy and grace  
Gift of God  
Repent and put your  
faith in Christ  
✓

## **Woe to you...**

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

Mt 23:15 (ESV)

# Israel's Calling

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**Made religion a matter of externals**

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Burdened converts with layers of regulations

**Made religion a matter of externals**

Made their converts ***twice as much a child of hell*** as they were



*“Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’ You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.*

*Mt 23:16-22 (ESV)*

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Employed the name of God	legitimately broken
Must be kept, no matter the cost	
God a partner	
Breaking oath an insult to God	

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**Greed, love of money and possessions**

## Jesus' Teaching

“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

Mt 5:33-37 (ESV)

## Another Charge

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

Mt 23:23-24 (ESV)

# Two Approaches

**Pharisees**



**“look how meticulous I am”**

**Jesus**



**“How do you treat  
other people?”**



**Don't get so wrapped  
up in the minutia**

# Two Approaches

**Pharisees**



**“look how meticulous I am”**



**Fanatical about fringe aspects, missed things like justice, mercy, faithfulness**



**Blind guides with a form of religion but denied its power to transform them**



**Beautiful on the outside**



**No awareness of sin, no need of a Saviour**

**Jesus**



**“How do you treat other people?”**



**Don't get so wrapped up in the minutia**



# Tough Words

Hypocrites, children of hell, blind fools...



- Eternity is at stake
- Does not want anyone to be lured into a Pharisaical system
- Does not want any of us to lead someone astray

# Closing Questions - 1

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Our only hope is in Jesus

He died in our place

He rose and intercedes before the Father

We can receive mercy and grace

## Closing Questions - 2

2. Who are you allowing to influence you?  
Are they leading in truth or in error?

Surround yourself with people who believe in the gospel and strive to authentically follow Christ.

## Closing Questions – 3

3. How are you influencing others?

Are you setting an example of integrity and character?

Are you dealing honestly with your sin?

**We have a loving  
Saviour who loves  
and cares for us**

**Rejoice  
that  
they're  
alive**

**"Don't run  
into the  
street"**

**Saved a  
Life**

**Child  
returns in  
tears**

**Don't  
understand  
seriousness**

**Give them a  
hug**

**Tell them  
you love  
them**