



Series: Unexpected Messiah

Passage Matthew 23:1-26

Title: Jesus Confronts Religious Hypocrisy

Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper – 5/16/2021

Discussion Starter – What tension do we see being demonstrated to us by the way Jesus delivers this message to those who were listening? Why is this tension so important for us in our walk with Christ?

Six Woes to the Scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 23:1-26)

- Read Matthew 23:1-3. Why do you think Jesus told the people to listen to what the scribes and Pharisees say but don't do what they do? What eluded the scribes and Pharisees such that Jesus would instruct them not to follow in their ways? What did Jesus teach that was so different and where might we find this teaching?
- What does religious hypocrisy look like in the times we live in today? How do we know if we are not being religious hypocrites ourselves? What are some dangers of being more knowledgeable in God's word?
- Read Matthew 23:4-12. What is Jesus teaching us in this passage as we compare the burdens the scribes and Pharisees laid upon the people to the works the scribes and Pharisees displayed amongst the people? Read Philippians 2:1-7. What additional insights can we gain from this passage?
- Read Matthew 23:13-26. What common ailment does Jesus use to describe the scribes and Pharisees condition? How does this relate to Jesus' ministry on earth and the gospel message?
- In what way were the scribes and Pharisees shutting up the kingdom of heaven against men? How does this warning message still apply to us in our world today?
- How were the scribes and Pharisees able to devour widow's house in those days? What did it look like? How can the same thing be going on in the church today?
- What was wrong with the evangelical outreach efforts of the scribes and Pharisees to convert gentiles and to make them disciples? What application from this passage can be made for parents or anyone who is in a leadership role?
- What does Jesus teach us about swearing oaths? What was Jesus calling the scribes and the Pharisees out on as it pertains to swearing an oath? What would we call this in our society today? Why is it important for us as Christians to keep our promises?
- What did Jesus point out as the key problem with the tithing of scribes and Pharisees? What was missing and what does this represent on a much deeper level? Read Micah 6:6-8. What additional insights are gain from these verses?
- What are some of the hypocritical things Jesus has brought to your attention and has enabled you to overcome in your walk with Him so far? What are some of the things you still struggle with?