

Hope for Hypocrite: Whoever Exalts Himself Will Be Humbled

Sermon Discussion Questions - October 17, 2021

Pastor

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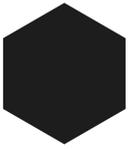
Text

Matthew 23:1-12

Discussion Questions

1. Have someone read Matthew 23:1-12. **Talk about the context of this passage. Look in your Bibles and briefly discuss what events/discussions come immediately before and after this passage.**
2. Verse 2-3 says, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice." Jesus acknowledges that the Pharisees officially functioned as interpreters of the Law of Moses, and insofar as they accurately interpreted Scripture, they were to be obeyed. The issue Jesus is about to raise is that even while they preach some of God's Word rightly, they do not obey it, and they add to it. **Broadly speaking, where have you seen church leaders most liable to preach one thing, but practice another?**
3. **Where are you most liable to not "practice what you preach?" Be honest.**
4. Matthew 23:5-7 says, "They [scribes and Pharisees] do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others." The religious leaders were guilty of advertising their righteous deeds. They loved the place of honor both in acknowledgement and recognition. Sometimes, we technically





do the right thing, but we do it for attention or affirmation. **Do you resonate with this? In which situations do you feel particularly tempted to "broadcast your righteousness?" Who are the people you sometimes try to convince of your worthiness?**

5. Matthew 23:12 says, "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." Humility shows us that we are not God. **When someone treats you like a servant what's your response?**

6. Philippians 2:5-9 says, "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name." **How did Jesus respond when He was treated as a servant? What was His response? In God's kingdom, why is humility paradoxically greater than self-exaltation? Why do we often struggle to believe or embrace this?**

7. **What is one thing God might be calling you to confess and repent of today?**

Prayer

What You value, O God, is not what we value. Help us. Help us become more like Christ Jesus who emptied Himself, taking on the form of a servant. And He never complained about it. He never saw humility as failure in the way we are prone to see it. We confess, our hearts often hate to be humble. We don't want to be treated like servants. We want power. We want to be influential. Our hearts secretly want to be famous. But, You have shown us a better way. Help us Holy Spirit be humble as Christ was humble, all for the glory of God.