

THE CONDEMNATION OF RELIGIOUS HYPOCRISY

Matthew 23:1-39

PART ONE – THE GENERAL CONDEMNATION - Matthew 23:1-12

Introduction: As stated last Sunday Jesus’ words, as seen here in Matthew 23, would be condemned as “hate speech” for attacking another man’s religious beliefs and practices. Continually throughout His earthly ministry Jesus held up the mirror of God’s Word before the religious leaders of Israel, but unfortunately, they went away refusing to see what they looked like through the lens of God’s infallible Word. Jesus starts to rip off the religious facade one layer at a time – each layer exposing a greater depth of their gross hypocrisy. By exposing the corrupt heart of Israel’s elite, Jesus is both warning and teaching His disciples what true religious leadership should and should not be. This condemnation of religious hypocrisy is done publically, in the Temple courts, before the multitudes, Jesus’ disciples, and in the presence of the scribes and Pharisees, and comes ringing down through the centuries right into 2018. The condemnation, the warning, and the instruction are timeless, and needs to be heeded anywhere the “Christian religion” is practiced.

I. THE EXPOSURE OF THE PHARISEES – 23:2-7

A. THEIR POSITION EXPOSED – 23:2-3a

B. THEIR PRACTICE EXPOSED – 23:3b-4

C. THEIR _____ EXPOSED – 23:5-7

1. THEIR LUST FOR _____ – 23:5

2. THEIR LUST FOR _____ – 23:6

3. THEIR LUST FOR _____ – 23:7

II. THE _____ TO THE DISCIPLES - 23:8-12

A. THE SOURCE OF _____ - 23:8

B. THE SOURCE OF _____ - 23:9

C. THE SOURCE OF _____ - 23:10

D. THE MEASURE OF _____ - 23:11-12