

FROM THE INSIDE OUT

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Harvest Club Edition

Matt. 23:23-33

Jesus appears to have contempt for the religiosity of the Pharisees.

This same spirit seems to permeate the church today and throughout history.

Acts 15:5 *But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.*

Religiosity began at the fall of man and is incorporated in the sin nature.

There were three major sects of Judaism.

I. The Three Major Sects.

A. Pharisees.

From Pharez (Perez) A breach.

Gen. 38:29 *And it came to pass, as he drew back his hand, that, behold, his brother came out: and she said, How hast thou broken forth? this breach be upon thee: therefore his name was called Pharez.*

Eph. 4:15 *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

1. Most religious of the Jewish sects.

a. Twin brother's name was Zerah. the light rising, dawning, radiate

Gen. 38:30 *And afterward came out his brother, that had the scarlet thread upon his hand: and his name was called Zerah.*

b. Practiced the letter of the law in the most literal sense.

2Cor. 3:6 *Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*

[1.] Letter of the law kills but the spirit of the law gives life.

2. Most powerful in religion and politics.

a. Controlled the office of High Priest.

[1.] Caiaphas.

Matt. 26:3-4 *Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, :4 And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtlety, and kill him.*

[a.] The trial judge of Jesus.

- [b.] Also Peter and others. Acts 4:1-22
- [c.] Close to both Herod and Pilate.
- [d.] Committed suicide, according to history about 35 A.D. due to his conscience concerning the crucifixion of Christ.

B. The Sadducees.

1. Ultra liberal and non-spiritual.
 - a. Rejected the doctrines of the supernatural. i.e. Angels, demons, resurrections, etc..
Matt. 22:23 *The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection,...*
2. Joined with the Pharisees to bring down Jesus.
 - a. Traveled to Jesus' meetings together.
 - b. Both hated Him for different reasons. The Pharisees were jealous of his following and the Sadducees hated his spirituality.
Mark 15:10 *For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy.*

C. The Essenes.

1. Not mentioned in scripture but history.
 - a. Omission may imply unimportance.

II. Jesus' Comparisons And Judgments.

A. Hypocrites.

Luke 12:1 *In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.*

1. Legalistic but heartless. vs. 23; 2Cor. 3:6
2. Whited sepulchres. vs.27-28
 - a. Outward appearance attractive and Pious, but dead inside.
3. Placed faith in icons. vs. 29
 - a. Self righteous and judgmental.
 - b. Made themselves the standard.
 - [1.] Became witnesses against themselves. vs. 31
 - [a.] Children of the murderers of the prophets.
 - [b.] Paul was a zealous Pharisee with murder in his heart.

B. Blind guides.

1. Bad leaders.
Matt. 23:13 *But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.*
 - a. Strained at a gnat and gulped down camels. vs. 24
 - b. Cleaned up the outside rather than the inside. vs. 26

- C. Serpents. vs.33
 - 1. Sneaky and *poisonous*.
Matt. 23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.
 - a. Pretentious.
The act of holding out, or offering, to others something false or feigned; presentation of what is deceptive or hypocritical; deception by showing what is unreal and concealing what is real;

III. Sins Of Omission. vs. 23

(Include applicable law.)

- A. Judgment.
 - 1. They judged improperly.
 - a. By the letter not the spirit of the Word.
 - b. Used themselves as a standard of judgment.
 - c. Falsely.
- B. Mercy.
Eph. 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: :9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.
 - 1. Should be given freely.
Matt. 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.
- C. Faith.
Rom. 3:27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.
 - 1. Impossible to please God without it. *Hebr. 11:6*

Conclusion;

- God works from the inside out.

Looks at the heart.

1Sam. 16:7 *But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*

To be justified by works, our efforts would have exceed that of the Pharisees.

Matt. 5:20 *For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

You'd have to pluck out your eyes and tear off your limbs.

Matt. 18:8-9 *Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. :9 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.*

It just ain't that hard. 2Cor. 11:3 *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

- Don't try to impose your standards (Religiosity) on others.

Be a witness not a judge.

1Cor. 10:29 *Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?*

- Remain teachable.

You just might not know it all.

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