**Jesus Rebukes Hypocrisy**

Matthew 23:1-39

Key Verse 23:3 “So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.”

1. Why does Jesus tell the crowds and his disciples that they must do what the Pharisees say, but not what they do? (1-4) How did the Pharisees exalt themselves? (5-7) In what ways must Jesus’ disciples be different from the Pharisees? (8-12)

2. How did the teachers of the law and the Pharisees shut the door of the kingdom of heaven? (13) How did their vow-making show their materialism and greed? (16-22)

3. How did their petty concerns further reveal their spiritual blindness? (23-24) What does it mean to strain out a gnat and swallow a camel? What makes the inside unclean? (25-28)

4. How did Jesus reveal that the current religious leaders were no better than their ancestors? (29-36)

5. How did Jesus express his love and longing for God’s people in spite of their rejection of God’s love? (37-39) What can we learn from the hypocrisy of the religious leaders?