



Series: Unexpected Messiah

Passage Matthew 23:13-39

Title: 8 Woes of Self Righteousness

Speaker: Pastor David Menard – 5/23/2021

Discussion Starter – This is perhaps the longest (of many) interactions between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees. What is the overall message you think He is conveying to them? What is His heart toward them? Why do you think the scribes and Pharisees are mentioned so frequently in the Gospels?

The Eight Woes of Self-Righteousness, (Matthew 23:13-36)

- Jesus begins 7 of these “Woes” with “Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!” Define Woe. Define hypocrites. Compare hypocrisy with self-righteousness.
 - As we read each of the 8 woes, describe a practical application of what they look like today? Which ones might you be more prone to identify with in your own life as a Christian? What were some of the scriptural truths that were violated by the scribes and Pharisees in each of these 8 woes?
1. Verse 13. Self-Righteousness people repel others from the Kingdom.
 2. Verse 14. Self-Righteousness people exploit religion for personal gain.
 3. Verse 15. Self-Righteousness is evidenced in the lives of those who follow you.
 4. Verse 16-22. Self-Righteousness people lead duplicitous lives.
 5. Verse 23-24. Self-Righteousness people take pride in petty rituals while ignoring the things that matter most.
 6. Verse 25-28. Self-Righteousness people have a powerless religion.
 7. Verse 27-28. Self-Righteousness people are self-deceived hypocrites.
 8. Verse 29-31. Self-Righteousness people think they are better than others.

Prophetic Message from Jesus - (Matthew 23:32-39)

- How did the scribes and Pharisees view their heritage? What important point does Jesus point out to the scribes and Pharisees about their heritage?
- What are the three prophetic messages given here by Jesus and when do they happen?
- Compare Jesus’ first teaching, “Blessed are the poor in spirit” with this last teaching. “Woe unto you...” What are some of the things God is showing you as we have studied these passages?
- What are some of the things you have not been willing to do for Jesus?