

# Hypocrisy

## Matthew 23

### Introduction:

- What discipline corresponds to each of the following symbols?



- In ancient Greece, actors and actresses wore over-\_\_\_\_\_ masks to represent their character. They were called hypokrites, where we get our word hy\_\_\_\_\_.
  1. The word originally referred to anyone reciting a p\_\_\_\_\_
  2. Then it was applied to actors/actresses reciting their l\_\_\_\_\_
  3. Later it became a derogatory term for a person who p\_\_\_\_\_ to have good character.
- Hypocrisy on the stage is awarded, but hypocrisy in life is frowned upon. Who pats a person on the back for:
  1. Pretending to be f\_\_\_\_\_ to his/her spouse
  2. Pretending to be a f\_\_\_\_\_
  3. Pretending to be honest.
  4. Pretending to be a follower of C\_\_\_\_\_
- In Matt 23, we will learn from Jesus about spiritual hypocrisy
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ times He calls the scribes and Pharisees hypocrites.
  2. One can fool people, but they cannot fool \_\_\_\_\_

### The r\_\_\_\_\_ of hypocrisy (25-28)

- Jesus exposes the i\_\_\_\_\_ condition of the scribes and Pharisees (vv. 25-28).
  1. They cleaned the o\_\_\_\_\_ of cups and dishes
    - a. They thought that this made them spiritually c\_\_\_\_\_.
    - b. They failed to think about the d\_\_\_\_\_ the cup held and the food the dish held.
      - 1) The scribes and Pharisees profited greatly from the people and bathed themselves in l\_\_\_\_\_.
      - 2) Their food and drink came from r\_\_\_\_\_ the people and was a display of over indulgence, thus making the cup and dish unclean.
  - c. They should have cleaned the i\_\_\_\_\_ first, ridding themselves of their sinful ways.

2. They were like whitewashed t\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Many cared for the tombs of their loved ones, but this did not deter the decay occurring i\_\_\_\_\_ the tomb.
  - b. They looked good on the outside, but inwardly they were in spiritual d\_\_\_\_\_.

● Jesus prophesies that the scribes and Pharisees will repeat the sin of their ancestors (vv. 29-39)

1. The scribes and Pharisees claimed that if they were living in the time of the p\_\_\_\_\_, they would not have persecuted or killed them like their ancestors did.
2. The scribes and Pharisees would live in the time of the New Testament p\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. They would k\_\_\_\_\_ and crucify some (Acts 7:54-60)
  - b. They would f\_\_\_\_\_ some in their synagogues (Acts 5:40)
  - c. They would p\_\_\_\_\_ some, chasing them from city to city (Acts 14:19)

● Jesus prophesies of God's judgment on that g\_\_\_\_\_ of Jews that lived in Jerusalem and opposed Christ – this was fulfilled in \_\_\_\_\_AD, when Jerusalem and the temple was completely destroyed (Josephus, *Wars of the Jews, Book vii*).

● Spiritual hypocrisy within the church

1. D\_\_\_\_\_ the people of the church when it is discovered.
2. M\_\_\_\_\_ the spiritual rot taking place on the inside.

### **The r\_\_\_\_\_ of hypocrisy (5-7, 29-39)**

● To bring a\_\_\_\_\_ to oneself (5)

1. The scribes and Pharisees b\_\_\_\_\_ their phylacteries.
  - a. God commanded Israel to wear the words He said that day on their wrists and f\_\_\_\_\_ (Deut 6:8).
  - b. Phylacteries were square leather containers that held certain scriptures.
    - 1) Tradition dictated them to be a certain dimension and be tied on the wrist and forehead with a special k\_\_\_\_\_.
    - 2) The scribes and Pharisees made their phylacteries huge and wore them all the time!
2. The scribes and Pharisees l\_\_\_\_\_ the tassels on their clothes (it was grossly longer than what tradition dictated).

3. The person who pretends to be a Christian on Sunday but does not live like one the rest of the week does so to be a \_\_\_\_\_ by the Sunday crowd.
  - a. Some falsely say that the church is full of hypocrites.
  - b. Jesus said that He will b\_\_\_\_\_ His church (Matt 16:18). He will not fill it with hypocrites.
- To secure or keep a p\_\_\_\_\_ (6,7)
  1. The scribes and Pharisees loved to sit in places of h\_\_\_\_\_
  2. They loved the t\_\_\_\_\_ that they used to elevate themselves above others.
  3. Beware of those people within a church who use their positions to c\_\_\_\_\_ others.

### The r\_\_\_\_\_ against hypocrisy (8-12)

- When we view one another as equals – *we are all b\_\_\_\_\_*
  1. We are under the same t\_\_\_\_\_ - the Holy Spirit
    - a. The Holy Spirit permanently l\_\_\_\_\_ inside every believer (Acts 1:5; Jn 14:16)
    - b. The Holy Spirit teaches us about e\_\_\_\_\_ (Jn 14:17; 1 Jn 2:27)
      - 1) He interacts with God's w\_\_\_\_\_ impressing it on our hearts and minds.
      - 2) This does not eliminate human teachers (He uses them too). Every believer, whether a teacher or not has the same ultimate teacher.
  2. We all have the same ultimate F\_\_\_\_\_ - God the Father
  3. We all have the same ultimate L\_\_\_\_\_ - Christ
  4. A correct view of our relationship to God will give us a correct view of one another and will rid or prevent h\_\_\_\_\_ within ourselves.
- When we h\_\_\_\_\_ serve one another, there is no room for hypocrisy - examples:
  1. Sending a c\_\_\_\_\_ of encouragement.
  2. Taking t\_\_\_\_\_ to help someone.
  3. Sharing from your a\_\_\_\_\_.
  4. Crying with the hurting or r\_\_\_\_\_ with someone.