

Reading & Prayer

Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to His disciples, ² saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; ³ therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things and do not do them. ⁴ They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger. ⁵ But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments. ⁶ They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues, ⁷ and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men.

⁸ But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹ Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. ¹⁰ Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ.

¹¹ But the greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

¹³ “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

²³ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. ²⁴ You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

²⁵ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. ²⁶ You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.

start reading. read together the main scripture for this study

read the scripture

In reading these verses of scripture, what would you circle, highlight, or underline as important to know or understand? Is there anything you noticed for the first time?

Is there one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses upon you? Meditate on that.

How does this Scripture relate to : **Knowing God's Story - Knowing Christ In You - Knowing God's Mission?**

start thinking. ask a thoughtful question

If I could write a newspaper headline related to this scripture it might read something like "**Pharisaism Exposed! Jesus reveals the true nature of the Pharisees' hearts!**" (Maybe this reads more like a tabloid.) But what Jesus reveals is **hypocrisy** within the human heart.

Hypocrisy : "they say things and do not do them."

The foundation of hypocrisy with the pharisees (as Matthew presents them) is their unwillingness to repent. Without repentance there is no entering into the Kingdom of God (**v.13 "you do not enter in yourselves"**).

What is the relationship between pride and hypocrisy?

start sharing. engage it with your story

What specific situation in your life relates today? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.

What did the Holy Spirit speak to you personally about during the sermon? Was there anything that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

In your personal history with God and church leadership, have you ever experienced being "tied up with heavy burdens"?

How does the Holy Spirit's presence within disciples of Jesus affect they way we recognize our incongruences in how we

start practicing. commit to a next step and live it out this week

Practice : *keeping the inside of the cup clean.*

Read : **Matthew 3:7-12.** In our study of Matthew, how have we seen John's warning come true? How does the promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire make the practice of repentance fruitful?

start praying. be bold and pray with power