

Matthew - "Why Jesus?"

When upholding the faith leads us astray

Matthew - "Why Jesus?"

Matthew 23:1-39 – When upholding the faith leads us astray

The five discourses:

- 1) Chapters 5-7 – Sermon on the Mount = What Jesus' new Kingdom is like & who it is for
 - 2) Chapter 10 – The commissioning of the Disciples = How we are now being called into His revolution as priesthood, as His partners
 - 3) Chapter 13 – The Parables of the Kingdom
 - 4) Chapter 18 – Living as a restored community in our new humanity
 - 5) Chapter 23-25 – Looking ahead to the future & warning about what will come
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Matt. 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

[19] Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

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Matt.22:37 And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. [38] This is the great and first commandment. [39] And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

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Matt. 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

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Matthew 23:1-3a – When upholding the faith leads us astray

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Matthew 23:3 – When upholding the faith leads us astray

- *“they preach but they don’t practice”*
- *“they talk but they don’t do”*
- *“they say things & do not do them”*

They “AGREE” but they do not BECOME

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Matthew 23:3 – When upholding the faith leads us astray

How we will approach our passage this morning:

- 1) *Who are these groups & who do they represent?*
 - 2) *How did they & thus we get so clouded?*
 - 3) *What does this clouded life look like?*
 - 4) *What does Jesus suggest to solve this dilemma?*
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1) *Who are these groups & who do they represent?*

Pharisees/scribes = role was to UPHOLD the faith

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1) *Who are these groups & who do they represent?*

2) *How did they & thus we get so clouded?*

They saw their role as upholding God's beliefs rather than sensing God's heart

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1) *Who are these groups & who do they represent?*

2) *How did they & thus we get so clouded?*

- *When you believe your role is to uphold the faith rather than to love God & others...*
- *When you believe your role is to keep the dominoes of God's truth from falling rather than laying your life down on behalf of others...*
- *When you worry more about going soft on some potential Biblical non-essential truth rather than bleeding for this world...*

You stand in the place of these same men

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2) *How did they & thus we get so clouded?*



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Matthew 23:5-10 – When upholding the faith leads us astray

- 1) *Who are these groups & who do they represent?*
- 2) *How did they & thus we get so clouded?*
- 3) *What does this clouded life look like?*

➤ Do things that look right but for all the wrong reasons



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Matthew 23:13-15 – When upholding the faith leads us astray

- 3) *What does this clouded life look like?*

➤ Creating weight vs. levity & the freedom & love to move towards God

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Matthew 23:16-22 – When upholding the faith leads us astray

3) *What does this clouded life look like?*

➤ Not seeing WHAT'S important nor WHO is important

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Matthew 23:23-24 – When upholding the faith leads us astray

3) *What does this clouded life look like?*

➤ No sense of weightier matters

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Matthew 23:25-33 – When upholding the faith leads us astray

3) What does this clouded life look like?

➤ Houses of hypocrisy

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Matthew 23:11-12 – When upholding the faith leads us astray

1) Who are these groups & who do they represent?

2) How did they & thus we get so clouded?

3) What does this clouded life look like?

4) What does Jesus suggest to solve this dilemma?

Matthew - "Why Jesus?"

Matthew 23:11-12 – When upholding the faith leads us astray

4) What does Jesus suggest to solve this dilemma?

Matt. 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

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Matthew 23:11-12 – When upholding the faith leads us astray

4) What does Jesus suggest to solve this dilemma?

Matt. 26:28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Matt. 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

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Matthew 23:34-39 – When upholding the faith leads us astray

4) What does Jesus suggest to solve this dilemma?

To create a path forward to God,
not a barrier of perfection
