



Matthew 23:8-12

Context

- Matt. 23:1 Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples,
- Matt. 23:2 saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat.
- Matt. 23:3 Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; **for they say, and do not do.**

Our text this evening

- Matt. 23:8 But you, do not be called “Rabbi”; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren.
- Matt. 23:9 Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.
- Matt. 23:10 And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ.
- Matt. 23:11 But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.
- Matt. 23:12 And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Notes

In our opening study of chapter 23 last week we learned that Jesus used His last public sermon to condemn the **hypocrisy** of the religious leaders. We also acknowledged that the unfortunate reality is that the same **hypocrisy** that Jesus rebuked 2000 years ago has crept into the Christian Church. That is, that many professed Christians today live their lives just as the Pharisees once did...“*they say, and do not do.*”

So, what are we to do? We recognize how damaging **hypocrisy** is to both ourselves and those around us so how then can we root it out of our own lives and from the culture of our church?

Jesus gives us the simple answer in verses 8-12!

Observations & Discussion

1. In vss. 8-10 Jesus gives us the first attitude needed to uproot hypocrisy out of our lives. How does shunning prestigious titles protect us from hypocrisy?

2. Compare Jesus' instructions in vss. 8-10 with Luke 6:13 & Ephesians 4:11-12. Clearly then we can't interpret Jesus' instructions in our text as a blanket restriction against the use of titles in the Church! So how should we interpret Jesus' instructions in vss. 8-10?

3. In vs. 11 we get the second attitude needed to uproot hypocrisy from our lives. How does serving others protect us from becoming a hypocrite?

4. Jesus promised that serving others is the path to greatness. How is that different than the path to greatness advocated by the world? Why is Jesus' path so hard to follow?

5. In vs. 12 Jesus provides us with the third attitude needed to uproot hypocrisy from our lives. In a word He said "*trust Me.*" How does trusting Jesus to make our lives significant protect us from hypocrisy?

6. In what area of your life do you have the most trouble trusting Jesus?

7. What does the word "Christian" mean? How does that meaning correspond to what we just learned about uprooting hypocrisy from our lives?