

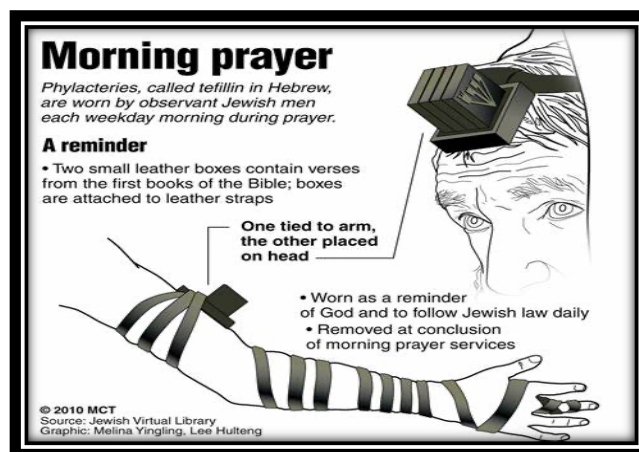


### Matthew 23:1-7

- 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.
- Matt. 23:4 For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.
- Matt. 23:5 But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments.
- Matt. 23:6 They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues,
- Matt. 23:7 greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, “Rabbi, Rabbi.’

#### Notes:

What in the world are phylacteries? Great question! As seen in drawing below they are small leather boxes that contain Old Testament scriptures that are tied to the forehead and arm of Orthodox Jewish men. The practice is based on the Jewish interpretation of Exodus 13:9.



## Observations & Discussion

1. In Jesus's last public address we find that He is pretty hard on the Scribes & the Pharisees. Read through chapter 23 and record the number of times Jesus calls them "hypocrites." Then write out the additional unflattering names He calls them.
2. When most people think of Jesus they think of Him as gentle and mild. Why do you think He was so hard on the religious leaders in this section?
3. Read & compare Romans 2:4 with 2 Corinthians 7:10. Some people would say that these two verses contradict one another. How do you reconcile them? How do these verses apply to Jesus' treatment of the Scribes & the Pharisees in the text we're studying?
4. Read vss. 2 & 3: Why is **hypocrisy** in the lives of God's people so dangerous?
5. Read vs. 4: why is **compassion** toward other people so important to God?
6. Read vss. 5-7: why is **pride** so abhorrent to God & how does it damage the reputation of the Church?
7. After reading Jesus' strong rebuke of the Scribes & Pharisees do you see anything in your life that needs to be changed?