



“If you continue in My word,

then are you My **Disciples InDeed...**”

Pharisees Won't Make It

Matthew 5:19-20 “Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

Jesus made a shocking statement to the Jews here when He said that the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees was not good enough to gain entrance into heaven. They were the “holy men” of the Jews who were known for their meticulous and exacting keeping of the laws and the prophets and of fastings, tithing, etc. and yet Jesus said that their righteousness wasn't good enough! In this lesson we want to find out what was wrong with their righteousness and then take an honest look at ourselves to see if we have any of the same problems.

In the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector in Luke 18, Jesus reveals that the Pharisees trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others who they deemed were not as good as they were. What is wrong with the person who thinks he is better than someone else?

According to Roman 3:23 what standard do we need to compare ourselves to if we want to avoid becoming a Pharisee? _____

What was it in the publican's prayer that made him accepted rather than the Pharisee? _____

What do we need to do in order to avoid the “way of the Pharisees” according to Luke 18:14?

In Matthew 23 Jesus gives a lengthy list of the attributes of the scribes and Pharisees. In verse 3 He said they knew how to “talk the talk” but were deficient in “walking the walk”. What is lacking in the person who knows the right answers but doesn't think it matters that they aren't living it out?

In verse 5 Jesus sums up many of the Pharisees' shortcomings when He says, “All their works they do to be seen of men.” In Matt 23:23-26 Jesus said that the Pharisees “strained at a gnat but swallowed a camel”. What was the gnat and what was the camel? _____

Jesus also said they cleaned the outside of the cup but didn't worry about the filth that was inside of it. What is missing that causes people to be satisfied with looking good on the outside while inside they are evil and corrupt? _____

In what ways did the Pharisees lack having the beatitudes in their hearts?

How About You?

1. Do you “practice what you preach” like Jesus did, or “say and do not” like the Pharisees? (Matt. 23:3)
2. Are you as good looking on the inside as what you try to appear on the outside?
3. Are you more concerned with being honored by your friends and others than by God? (John 5:44)
4. Do you look down on others who struggle with things that you don't or do you have the understanding that “but for the grace of God, that would be me”? (Luke 18)

Further Study: Matt 23, Lk 16:15, Joh 5:44, Matt 15, Matt 9:11-13

“...And you shall know The Truth,
and The Truth shall **make you Free!**”

