

Study Guide
The Kingdom Has Come
Matthew 23:1-12

Big Idea: The greatest threat to God's Kingdom is misrepresentation.

1. Notice that Jesus was in a major clash with the spiritual leaders of the day and not with Rome. Why is that? What does that tell us about Jesus' involvement in politics? Who has been chosen to represent God today?

2. Discuss who we are as the body of Christ and what implications it has in representing God on earth. How are His "excellencies" proclaimed through us?

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9

3. According to Matthew 23:1-12, the spiritual leaders of the day misrepresented Christ. Discuss the dynamics around this concept, both back then and what that might look like today:

- a. No credibility (v. 1-3)
- b. No love (v. 4)
- c. No humility (v.5-10)
- d. No service (v. 11-12)

4. How was Jesus the opposite of these leaders? Discuss how we can represent Christ well to a watching world.

Application

Prayer for God to help us as believers to represent Him well.

Message Slides

Clash of Kingdoms

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A. False Spiritual Leaders

1. No Credibility (v.1-3)

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ²"The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, ³so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.

2. No Love (v.4)

⁴They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.

Image- donkey

3. No Humility (v.5-10)

⁵They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, ⁶and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues ⁷and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. ⁸But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. ¹⁰Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ.

Galatians 1:10

For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

3. No Humility (v.5-10)

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4. No Service (v.11-12)

¹¹The greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹²Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

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B. Spiritual Leaders

1 Peter 2:9

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

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- 1. Credibility**
- 2. Love**
- 3. Humility**
- 4. Service**

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