

Study Guide
The Kingdom Has Come
Matthew 23:13-39

Big Idea: What angers God most is when He is misrepresented.

1. Jesus called out the Pharisees for distorting the truth. Give an example of what it could mean to misrepresent Christ in today's environment.

2. Read the descriptions of what the Pharisees did to misrepresent God. Which ones stand out the most to you? Why are they so grievous to Christ?

1. *Door Slammers (v.13)*

2. *Hell Mentors (v.15)*

3. *Blind Guides- Disingenuous (v.16-22)*

4. *Blind Guides- Unloving (v.23-24)*

5. *Greedy (v.25-26)*

6. *Pretentious (v. 27-28)*

7. *Damned (v.29-36)*

3. Read Matthew 23:37-39. Why do you think the spiritual leaders were not willing to come under the protection of God?

4. Discuss spiritual pride:

- a. The illusion that I am competent to run my own life.
- b. The appeal of competition.

5. Imagine your life as being in a courtroom, constantly trying to defend yourself against mounting accusations. How does it make you feel, in Christ, to know that the verdict is already in, and you are not guilty? Discuss how this good news changes us.

Message Slides

Clash of Kingdoms

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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.”

A. False Spiritual Leaders

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1. False Morality (v.3)

“For they preach, but do not practice.”

2. Fake Love (v.4)

“They 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.”

3. Faulty Motivation (v.5-11)

“They do all their deeds to be seen by others...
...The greatest among you shall be your servant.”

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B. Seven Woes (v. 13-36)

1. Door Slammers (v.13)

¹³“But **woe to you**, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in.

2. Hell Mentors (v.15)

¹⁵**Woe to you**, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

3. Blind Guides- Disingenuous (v.16-22)

¹⁶“**Woe to you**, blind guides, who say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.’ ¹⁷You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? ¹⁸And you say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.’ ¹⁹You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? ²⁰So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. ²¹And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. ²²And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

4. Blind Guides- Unloving (v.23-24)

²³“**Woe to you**, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. ²⁴You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

5. Greedy (v.25-26)

²⁵“**Woe to you**, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

6. Pretentious (v. 27-28)

²⁷“**Woe to you**, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

7. Damned (v.29-36)

²⁹“**Woe to you**, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous,³⁰saying, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ ³¹Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³²Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers. ³³You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?

7. Damned (v.29-36) cont.

³⁴Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, ³⁵so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. ³⁶Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

C. Lament over Jerusalem (v. 37-39)

³⁷“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁸See, your house is left to you desolate. ³⁹For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

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D. Spiritual Pride!

What is so dangerous? Illusion.

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What is so appealing? Competition.

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1 Cor. 3:21- “So then no more boasting about men...”

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Tim Keller

“The essence of gospel-humility is not thinking more of myself or less of myself, it is thinking of myself less.”

Image- Courtroom