

problem:

-Read: Luke 18:9-14.

-based on this passage, what was the main problem of the pharisees?

The pharisees were experts in faking righteousness - they were experts in their own religious culture - but they were fakes; frauds who were so convinced by their own show that they didn't need salvation.

how do the following articles illustrate a similar problem and solution for today's church:

<http://www.challies.com/articles/destroy-a-church-in-4-simple-steps>

<http://www.challies.com/articles/protect-your-church-in-one-simple-step>

<http://www.albertmohler.com/2013/08/21/the-sheer-weightlessness-of-so-many-sermons-why-expository-preaching-matters/>

Beware - the harshest criticism in all of Scripture is reserved for religion without repentance-

CPT:

Whoever exalts himself will be humbled and whoever humbles himself will be exalted (Matthew 23:1-12)

-What does Jesus mean in verse 3 based on Matthew 5:17-20, 48; 16:12?

-how does Matthew 20:26-28 relate to verses 8-12 of this passage?

-How does James 4:1-10 color this in?

Woe to you hypocrites... (Matthew 23:13)

-How exactly were the Pharisees shutting the kingdom of Heaven in people's faces?

-Read, Luke 11:52 to find out.

-An example of hiding knowledge is illustrated in Matthew 22:23-33.

-what were they ignorant of, that they faked being experts in?

-how might this illustrate shutting the kingdom in people's faces?

-Jesus refers to the religious leader as hypocrites here and throughout this passage.

-Read Matthew 6:2, 5, 16; 7:5; 15:7, 22:18. Based on these verses, what specifically was their hypocrisy?

Woe to you hypocrites... (Matthew 23:15)

-not only were they fakes and frauds, but their disciples were the same and they spread their blasphemies throughout God's people.

-Read, 2 Peter 2.

-how does this passage demonstrate the pervasive nature of this hypocrisy?

Woe to you blind guides... (Matthew 23:16-22)

-Based on John 9:35-40, what is worse than being blind?

-Read Jude 1:3-16.

-how do the word games, played here by the religious leaders of Christ's day compare to what Jude speaks of?

Woe to you hypocrites... (Matthew 23:23-24)

Sermon Study - Matthew 23:1-36 - WOE

-how does Romans 10:1-4; Colossians 2:16 and 2 Timothy 3:5, comment on this section?

Woe to you hypocrites... (Matthew 23:25-26)

-How does Matthew 15:10-20, illustrate their problem?

Woe to you hypocrites... (Matthew 23:27-28)

-How does Matthew 27:6 illustrate the total non-impact their law had on their actual righteousness?

Woe to you hypocrites... (Matthew 23:29-36)

-Jesus calls them a brood of vipers. Based on Matthew 3:7, 12:34 and John 8:44, what does this mean?

-Jesus compared them to Cain (Genesis 4:1-8), a self-righteous murderer seen at the beginning of the Hebrew Bible. He also compared them to the murderers of Zechariah (2 Chronicles 24:17-22), a self-righteous, murderous people. From beginning to end, they are the same self-righteous murders....and so are we. Acts 2:22-23 and Ephesians 2:1-2 show us to be in the same league.

Implication:

We see this illustrated in Isaiah 1:1-4- God is upset with his people and He sends a prophet to tell them woes (Isaiah 5:8-30). There were six woes for the people...Read Isaiah 6:1-8.

-What was the seventh woe?

-what caused Isaiah to know this about himself?

Woe to the self righteous of every generation- start with me!!!

Application:

'Blessed,' is the opposite of woe - Read Matthew 5:1-11. How does this illustrate the opposite of the Pharisees?

-Read Psalm 62. How does this psalm illustrate Matthew 5:1-11?

Main Idea:

beware of religion without repentance

discuss the following article about repentance:

<https://www.lifeaction.org/revival-resources/revive/turn-43-2/seven-principles-repentance/>

Here are the sermon studies from Matthew 5:1-11 and 5:17-48. Refer to them (in your own time) as they relate heavily to this message:

<http://www.barabbasroadchurch.com/study/9-8-13/study.pdf>

<http://www.barabbasroadchurch.com/study/9-15-13/study.pdf>