



The Gospel of Matthew

“Beware of Appearing Righteous”
Matthew 23:1-12



Chapter 23: “Woe to You”

➤ Jesus pronounced a judicial indictment against Israel’s religious leaders for their religious hypocrisy

v. 28: *“you too outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness”*

Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and His disciples, saying, “The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses;

~~therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things, and do not do them.~~

And they tie up heavy loads, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger.

But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries, and lengthen the tassels of their garments.

~~And they love the place of honor at banquets, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called by men, Rabbi.~~

But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your teacher, and you are all brothers.

And do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.

And do not be called leaders; for One is your leader, that is, Christ.

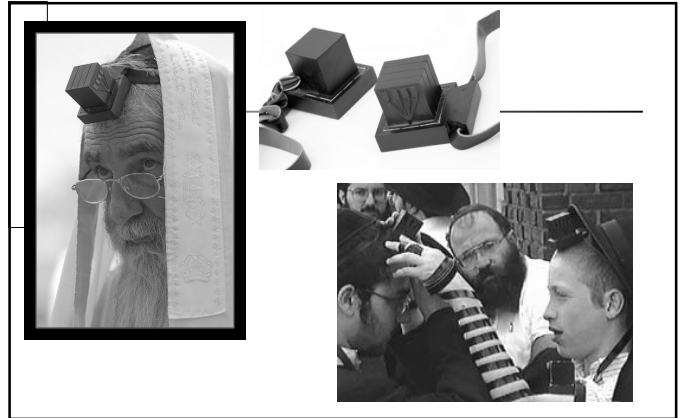
But the greatest among you shall be your servant. ~~And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.”~~

Matthew 23:1-12

Avoiding Hypocrisy

Characteristics of Hypocrisy

1. Not practicing what you preach
2. Lack of compassion and mercy
3. A desire to be seen as righteous



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Means of Avoiding Hypocrisy

1. Pursue God alone in every act of piety
 - make efforts not to be seen by others in order to guard a God-ward focus
 - let your "secrecy" test the reality of God in your life and your desire for Him

Avoiding Hypocrisy

Means of Avoiding Hypocrisy

2. Avoid seeking and using honorific titles
 - we ultimately have one Teacher – Jesus
 - we are all "brothers" – no spiritual hierarchy

Avoiding Hypocrisy

Means of Avoiding Hypocrisy

3. Seek to selflessly serve others
 - do not seek recognition and status
 - prefer others as more important than yourself