

"Woe, It's Me"  
Matthew 23: 1 - 39  
March 16, 2014

**Religion Is A Poison That Blinds Its Followers To Their True Condition Before Christ, (vs. 1 - 39)**

**Christ Calls Us To See Religion For What It Is & Follow The Teachings Of God; Not The Appetites Of Men, (vs. 1 - 12)**

**Message Emphasis:** Many today are like the Pharisees of Jesus day; they are busy DOING many seemingly good things but are completely devoid of any real heart change. Our Lord demands that we listen to the word of God and follow its teachings with a genuine heart's devotion.

...if Christ reproves the scribes and Pharisees, sitting in the official chair of Moses, but not doing what they taught, what kind of (supposition) is it that Christ Himself... should set upon His own official chair men who were mindful to command – (but) not likewise to practise – devotion, which... He had in all ways recommended to their teaching and practising? – first by His own example, then by all other arguments... ~ ~ Tertullian, AD 200

**1) If You Are Going To "Do" Anything, Do What God Has Commanded In His Word, (vs. 1 - 4) *Am I devoted to God's word?***

<sup>2</sup> **"The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, <sup>3</sup> so do [all-πάντα] (Aor.Act.Impv) and observe (Pres.Act.Impv) whatever they tell (Aor.Act.Subj) you, but not the works they do (Pres.Act.Impv)"**

- 1a Devotion seeks to walk the walk; religion doesn't - "For they preach, but do not practice." "He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?" (Matthew 15:3, ESV)
- 2a Devotion seeks to ease the burden of others; religion doesn't - <sup>4</sup> "They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders," *How am I actively seeking to make life easier for those around me?*
- 3a Devotion intentionally seeks to grow in ability to "do" these things, religion doesn't - "but they themselves are not willing [to move] (Aor.Act.Inf) them with their finger." *What am I doing that I've not done before to grow?*

"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:20, ESV)

**2) If You Are Going To Avoid "Doing" Something, Avoid Doing What Makes Much Of You, (vs. 5 - 7) *...devoted to myself?***

<sup>5</sup> **"They do all their deeds [to be seen] (Aor.Pas.Inf) by others.**

- 1b There is no room for devotion when you desire to call attention to itself - "For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long"
- 2b There is no room for devotion when you desire to be center of attention - <sup>6</sup> "and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues "
- 3b There is no room for devotion when you desire to "be seen as the expert" - <sup>7</sup> "and greetings in the marketplaces and being called (Pres.Pas.Inf) rabbi by others."

**3) If You Are Going To "Make Much" Of Someone, Make Much Of Christ, (vs. 8 - 12)**

*Am I devoted to Christ?*

- Devotion insists on Christ being Lord - <sup>8</sup> But you are not to be called (Aor.Pas.Subj) rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. <sup>9</sup> And call (Aor.Act.Subj) no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.
- Devotion willing submits to Christ - <sup>10</sup> Neither be called (Aor.Pas.Subj) instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. <sup>11</sup> The greatest among you shall be your servant. <sup>12</sup> Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

*I've found the pearl of greatest price! My heart doth sing for joy; And sing I must, for Christ is mine! Christ shall my song employ.*

**\*\*\*What Must I Do To Be Saved? \*\***

**Message Directive:** Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul ONLY in Christ will you experience true devotion.

2. Christ Calls Us To See Where True Salvation Is Found, (vs. 13 - 15)
3. Christ Calls Us To See Where The True Church Is Found, (vs. 16 - 22)
4. Christ Calls Us To See Where True Piety Is Found, (vs. 23 - 24)
5. Christ Calls Us To See Where True Holiness Is Found, (vs. 25 - 26)
6. Christ Calls Us To See Where True Righteousness Is Found, (vs. 27 - 28)
7. Christ Calls Us To See Where True Love Is Found, (vs. 29 - 36)
8. Christ Calls Us To See Where True Belief Is Found, (vs. 37 - 39)