

Nine Traits of Good and Bad Pastors

Matthew 23:1-12

- 1) They seat themselves in places of authority (23:2; cf. Jer. 14:14; 23:21; 28:15)
 - a) They designate themselves pastors in authority
 - b) A good pastor is called, gifted, trained, and ordained**
- 2) They lack simplicity in preaching (3a)
 - a) They see visions, have dreams
 - b) They convolute the gospel with their conjecturing
 - c) A good pastor preaches the simple, biblical gospel**
- 3) They lack integrity (3b)
 - a) What they say is not what they believe
 - b) A good pastor believes truth and lives it**
- 4) They invent legalisms but won't help those burdened by them (4)
 - a) They have no compassion for people
 - b) They are ungentle and unkind
 - c) A good pastor preaches the heart of Jesus (cf. 12:20)**
- 5) Their good deeds are always done in public (5)
 - a) They are unspiritual
 - b) A good pastor serves best when he knows no one is watching**
- 6) They never miss a photo op (5b)
 - a) Their pictures and names are everywhere
 - b) A good pastor neither needs nor desires to call attention to himself**
- 7) They thrive on attention (6)
 - a) They drop names; are drawn only to those with money or power
 - b) A good pastor is content to be a nobody**
- 8) They insist on titles of honor (7)
 - a) Requiring *Right Reverend father in God, doctor, Your Excellency, etc.*
 - b) A good pastor is just known by his name**
- 9) Their leadership is based on being served, not serving (11)
 - a) They lord their authority over their flock
 - b) A good pastor serves Christ's flock faithfully**