



**PEEPLS VALLEY
BAPTIST CHURCH**
Together we are becoming!
One Spirit



August 4, 2019 3, AV 5779



the journey into
HOLINESS series 17

Impressing Holiness / Depressing Jesus

August 4, 2019 / 3 AV 5779

Matthew 23:1-39 (KJV)

¹ Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, ² Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: ³ All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, *that* observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. ⁴ For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay *them* on men's shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers. ⁵ But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, ⁶ And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, ⁷ And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. ⁸ But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, *even* Christ; and all ye are brethren. ⁹ And call no *man* your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. ¹⁰ Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, *even* Christ. ¹¹ But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. ¹³ But **woe** unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. ¹⁴ **Woe** unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. ¹⁵ **Woe** unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves. ¹⁶ **Woe** unto you, *ye* blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! ¹⁷ *Ye* fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold? ¹⁸ And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty. ¹⁹ *Ye* fools and blind: for whether *is* greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift? ²⁰ Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all

things thereon. ²¹ And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by him that dwelleth therein. ²² And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon. ²³ **Woe** unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier *matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. ²⁴ *Ye* blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. ²⁵ **Woe** unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. ²⁶ *Thou* blind Pharisee, cleanse first that *which is* within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. ²⁷ **Woe** unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead *men's* bones, and of all uncleanness. ²⁸ Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. ²⁹ **Woe** unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, ³⁰ And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. ³¹ Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. ³² Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. ³³ *Ye* serpents, *ye* generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? ³⁴ Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and *some* of them ye shall kill and crucify; and *some* of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute *them* from city to city: ³⁵ That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. ³⁶ Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. ³⁷ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not! ³⁸ Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. ³⁹ For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Intro.

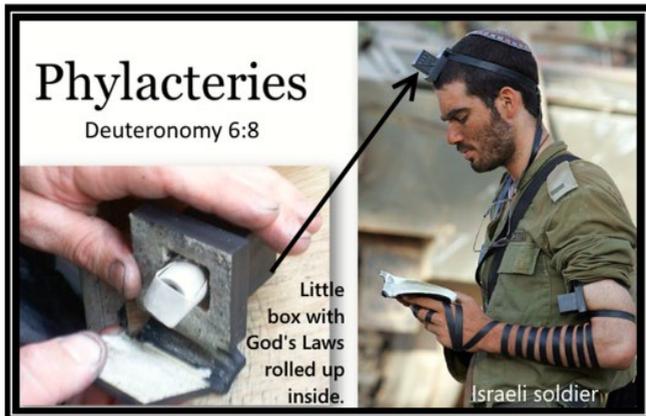
Today is the 17th and final message in this section of Matthew that we have called "*Journey Into Holiness.*" In the previous 16 messages we have seen again and again the evidence that holiness is not in how you dress or how you look, the evidence of holiness is in how you treat others. You've heard me say this before, and this principle is repeated throughout the gospel of Matthew: every time you interact with another person you have the opportunity to practice holiness.

A holy person reads the Bible, a holy person prays, a holy person goes to church — but there's much, much more to it than that. What we learn from the life and teachings of Jesus is that a holy person, first and foremost, loves. A person's holiness is best seen in the way he or she treats other people. That's why Jesus was so sharp in his rebuke of the Pharisees. The Pharisees were a religious group of people who kept all the religious laws to unbelievable extremes — but they did not have love.

Jesus, in Matthew 22 spoke His final words directly to the Pharisees.

For many many months, indeed for the whole three years of His public ministry, Jesus had been contending with the Pharisees. they had been challenging Him, Jesus had been responding to them, Jesus had finally gone on the offensive as it were **in Matthew chapter 22** and challenged them with a number of questions which they were not able to answer.

And Jesus had been very honest in His dealings with them, but in the passage we are going to read today in **Matthew chapter 23**, now **He is no longer speaking directly to the Scribes and Pharisees. He is now speaking to the pilgrims who are gathered at Jerusalem for the Passover, and to His disciples.**





3 Things we can do to help us move away from hypocrisy and move toward a life of holiness.

1. Let go of your _____.

2. Focus on what really _____.

3. Start with your _____.

CONCLUSION

What we've seen in today's passage is what we've seen throughout the series, and throughout the gospel of Matthew: being spiritual, or being holy, is a matter of having a heart for God and a heart for others. The evidence of holiness is discovered in how you treat others.

NOTE: No man or woman is so sinful that God will not save them. But many are so righteous in their own eyes that they cannot be saved.

NOTE: In the day of judgment, I would rather stand before God as a publican, or a harlot, or anything, rather than stand before him as a self-righteous hypocrite – **Beware of self-righteousness!**

Rom. 9:30-10:4

Application:

1. If you would **be saved**, you must “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.”
2. If God has saved you, if he has given you faith in Christ, **confess** him in Believer’s Baptism.

1. Ego 2. Matters 3. Heart