

Jesus authority

Matthew 21-23 part 10

“The leading priests and the teachers of religious law saw these wonderful miracles and heard even the children in the Temple shouting, “Praise God for the Son of David.” But the leaders were indignant.” Matthew 21:15

“They demanded, ‘By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right?’” Matthew 21:23b

“So they finally replied, ‘We don’t know.’

And Jesus responded, ‘Then I won’t tell you by what authority I do these things.’” Matthew 21:27

I. Spiritual principle: God will not teach us a new truth if we don’t take notice of what we already know.

Q. Is there anything that God has been prompting you about and have yet to act on? _____

II. Spiritual principle: Practice what you preach

“So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don’t follow their example. For they don’t practice what they teach...”⁵ “Everything they do is for show.” Matthew 23:3 & 5

“On their arms they wear extra wide prayer boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra long tassels.” Matt 23:5b

“And they love to sit at the head table at banquets and in the seats of honour in the synagogues.” Matt 23:6

“They love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces, and to be called ‘Rabbi.’” Matt 23:7

“Blind guides! What sorrow awaits you!...Blind fools!” Matt 23:16-17

“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith...²⁴ Blind guides! You strain your water so you won’t accidentally swallow a gnat, but you swallow a camel!” Matt 23:23-24

“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence!²⁶ You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too.

²⁷ “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity. ²⁸Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.” Matt 23:25-28

BY... Being a servant

“The greatest among you must be a servant.” Matt 23:11

Humbling yourself

“But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” Matt 23:12

Focusing on justice, mercy and faith

“...but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith.” Matt 23:23

Seeking the Kingdom of God through repentance

“For John the Baptist came and showed you the right way to live, but you didn’t believe him, while tax collectors and prostitutes did. And even when you saw this happening, you refused to believe him and repent of your sins.” Matt 21:32