

July 1, 2018

Matthew 23:1-12

Warnings Against False Teachers

- Chapter 23 can be divided into three sections:
 - v. 1-12 Jesus warns the people and His disciples to distinguish between the teachings and the practices of their leaders
 - v. 13-36 Jesus pronounces 7 woes of judgment upon the false shepherds of Israel
 - v. 37-39 Jesus laments over Jerusalem's rejection of Him as their Messiah which also serves as a transition into His teaching about the coming events of the end of the age in ch.24-25
- In this section of His sermon, Jesus warns against the false teachings which promoted the misuse of the Law by the majority of the Jewish leadership.
- Some have considered Jesus' rejection of these teachers as His rejection of the Law. But Jesus did not come to destroy Judaism or the Law but to fulfill God's purpose for Israel through fulfilling the Law.

***Matt 5:17-18** ...Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them*

- In Deut.6:5 and Lev.19:18, the Law is the codified definition and expression of God's love.

Rom 13:10 ...*[God's kind of] love is the fulfillment of the Law...*

John 14:15 *If you love Me [with God's kind of love], you will obey [keep the whole Law] what I command*

- Through their obedience to God's Law, the people were to experience the spiritual rest of God's love (Matt. 11:28-30). However, rather than being led to experience the loving rest of God, the people were being burdened by the man-created additions to God's Law of Love.
- Jesus wants the people to be aware of the public hypocrisy of the Pharisees who put on a religious show by seeking human approval.
- The leaders had taken to themselves these titles for the purpose of identifying and promoting their own self-importance.
- Even in the church we need to be careful not to exalt the leader but to exalt the God who has given him the role of leadership (Acts 13:1; 1 Tim. 2:7; Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12: 28–29).

- Those who are called by God to be leaders are called to be His humble servants, serving the spiritual needs of his people (Phil. 2:6-8).

Luke 22:27 *I am among you as One Who serves...*