
***True Religion and
Humble Service***

Matthew 23:1-12



the
Gospel
according to
Matthew





Matthew 23-25 The Fifth Discourse

- **Matthew 23**

Woes and judgment on the leaders of Israel

- **Matthew 24-25**

Prophecy on his return and end of history



Matthew 23:1-12

***Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples:
2 'The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in
Moses' seat. 3 So you must be careful to do everything
they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do
not practise what they preach. 4 They tie up heavy,
cumbersome loads and put them on other people's
shoulders, but they themselves are not willing
to lift a finger to move them.***



⁵ ‘Everything they do is done for people to see: they make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; ⁶ they love the place of honour at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; ⁷ they love to be greeted with respect in the market-places and to be called “Rabbi” by others.

⁸ ‘But you are not to be called “Rabbi”, for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹ And do not call anyone on earth “father”, for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. ¹⁰ Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah. ¹¹ The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹² For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.



Characteristics of the False Hypocritic Teachers

- *Preach not practice*
- *Bring burden not blessing*
- *Seek self-glory not God*
- *Misunderstand true greatness and service*



Preach Not Practice

*Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples:
2 'The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses'
seat. 3 So you must be careful to do everything they tell
you. But do not do what they do, for they do not
practise what they preach.*

They are Hypocrites - Empty Religion
Say the right things but live the wrong way



Burden Not Blessing

⁴ They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

Cold Heartless Religion

Impose heavy burden with their rigid religiosity

Distorted the Truth of God

Work vs. Grace Driven Obedience

***The Sovereign God is a Compassionate God
not a Cold Control Freak***

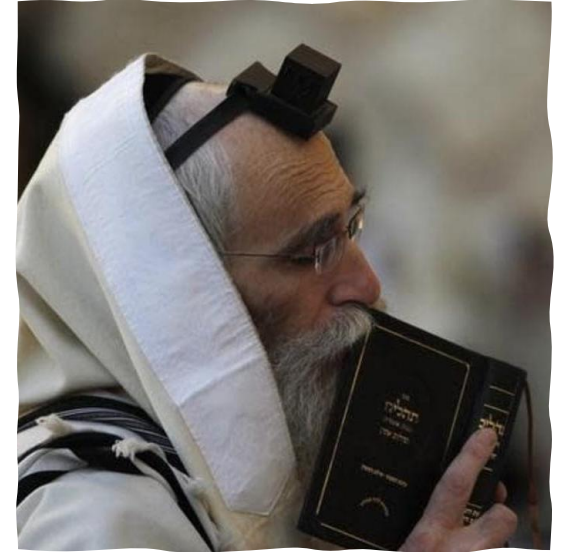
Seek Glory Not God

⁵ 'Everything they do is done for people to see: they make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; ⁶ they love the place of honour at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues;

They love to show off

***Seek Applause of man
Not Approval of God***

The Pharisee





They revelled in honorific title

⁷ they love to be greeted with respect in the market-places and to be called “Rabbi” by others.

⁸ ‘But you are not to be called “Rabbi”, for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers.

Pride and Self-seeking glory

*Seek honour, respect, and adoration
that are due to God alone*



They Misunderstand Ministry

- ¹¹ The greatest among you will be your servant.*
- ¹² For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.*

True Greatness is Humble Service

*God's servants must serve humbly
by His grace for His glory*

Are we Hypocritic False Teachers or Christians?

- **Hypocrisy vs. Integrity**

Are we saying the right things but living the wrong way?

- **Work vs. Grace driven obedience**

Do our words and actions make it easier or harder for others to come to God?



Are we Hypocritic False Teachers or Christians?

- **Self-glorifying vs. Glorifying God**

Looking for honorific title and position, honour and respect?

- **Self-exalting vs. Humble Service**

Misunderstood our ministry of Humble Service?



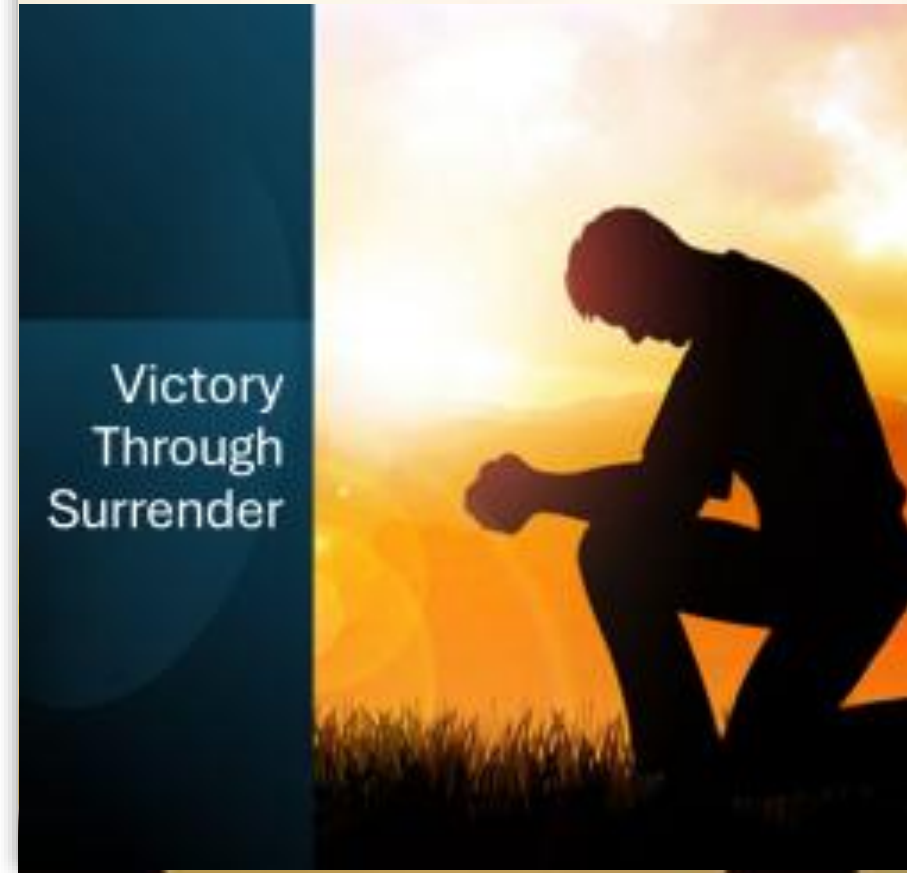
Live the Authentic Christian life

Practice what you preach

- Don't just speak the Word, live it.

With grace driven obedience

- Compelled by His love.
- Surrender and sanctify yourself.
- Be filled and led by the Spirit through his word to obey him.



Serve God with Humility

True Greatness is Humble Service

“Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

The Way Up Is Down

Don't seek to be first, be willing to be last

Mark 9:35 *‘Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.’*



Be Servants, **Not Celebrities**

Matthew 20:26-27

²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave –

**Don't serve for
applause of man,
serve for His glory**





HUMBLY SERVE GOD

Reflection Questions:

- *Is my faith something I live or just something I talk about?*
- *Is my practice of faith bringing blessing or burden to others?*
 - *Am I serving for people's approval or God's glory?*
- *How can I show humility and serve someone this week?*

***Come Follow Jesus
Love and Serve Him!***

Live Authentic Christian Life and Serve Humbly

