

Woe to the Scribes and Pharisees *Part 1*

Matthew 23:1-4

Warnings to the People

- Jesus warns the people about the false leadership. ***Matt 23:1-12***
 - The scribes and Pharisees were viewed as authoritative teachers of the Law. ***vs 1-4***
 - *The people were to obey the law, despite the examples of the teachers. vs 3*
 - *Jesus will expound on their examples.*
 - *They compiled extrabiblical traditions and bound them on the people. vs 4; cf. Matt 15:9*

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 - The scribes' and Pharisees' motives. ***vs 5-7***
 - *The works they did to be seen by men. vs 5; cf. John 12:42-43; also Matt 6:1-4*
 - *Phylacteries were leather containers holding Exo 13:1-10, 11-16; Deut 6:4-9; 11:13-21. They would be attached by leather straps to the forehead and left forearm at the time of prayer.*

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 - *“enlarge the borders of their garments” may refer to tassels with a blue cord that were attached to the four corners of a man’s garments (Num 15:37-41).*
 - *Longer lengths may have indicated greater piety. Cf. Mark 9:20-21; Matt 14:36*

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- Jesus warns the people about the false leadership. ***Matt 23:1-12***
 - The scribes' and Pharisees' motives. ***vs 5-7***
 - *They loved places of honor and recognition. vs 6-7*
 - *“Best places at feasts” may have been places near the host.*
 - *“Best seats in the synagogues” may have referred to positions on a raised platform facing the congregation.*
 - *They loved honorific titles, such as Rabbi.*

Warnings to the People

- Jesus warns the people about the false leadership. ***Matt 23:1-12***
 - Do not follow the scribes and Pharisees examples. ***vs 8-12***
 - *Do not be called “Rabbi” or Teacher.*
 - *There is One teacher, Christ.*
 - *We are all brethren who learn from the One Teacher.*
 - *We are servants of one another.*

Conclusion

The takeaway...

- Our service to God is not for the praise of men.
- Our service in the local church is not for the praise of men.