

Think About Points to Ponder and Words to Think About

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### Justice, Mercy and Faith(Matthew 23:23)

Justice - We are to Judge righteous Judgement.  
(John 7:24) We are not to judge by appearances. Christ mentioned this to the Pharisees when they came and accused him of doing wrong by healing on the Sabbath. We need to be careful when dealing with a brother that we do not make judgement until we have the facts.

Mercy - God desires Mercy instead of a sacrifice. The Pharisees would obey the law to the point that they would not help those in need. By obeying the letter of the law they disobeyed the spirit of the law. One example of this was when they would give to God and then say they could not help their parents.

Faith - It is interesting that Christ would point out their lack of faith. The Pharisees lacked a conviction to follow God and had put their faith in their tradition. The Pharisees chose to serve God as they wished and not how God desired.

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# A Study of Matthew

Matthew 23:1-39

Lesson 21

**Assignment for next Week** — Read Matthew 24:1-51

**Memory Verse** — Matthew 23:23

The Pharisees were very a group of people who knew the law, taught it, but did not practice it. Christ on many occasion upbraided them for this and in a discourse to the people in the 23rd chapter Christ made this very clear to the people. Much of the 23rd chapter is devoted to pointing out the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and scribes. Jesus was very upset with these people and his greatest desire was that they would come to God. Christ's great sorrow over these people is very clear in the closing words of this chapter -- "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem . . . How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not. Behold your house is left unto you desolate."(Matthew 23:37-38) God's justice demands that he punish the wicked.

Christ had taught that our righteousness must exceed that of the Pharisees. The Pharisees in some regards were much like the fig tree Jesus had cursed in the 22nd chapter -- all show and no fruit. The Pharisees were men who knew the law and could teach it and because of this Jesus told the people to obey what they taught from the law, but not to follow their example. Today we too may be taught by people who know the will of God, but are not following it. As Christ taught the people — the same holds true for us today — if some one teach us the will of God we should follow it and not let their example hinder us.

The Pharisees enjoyed the praise of men and

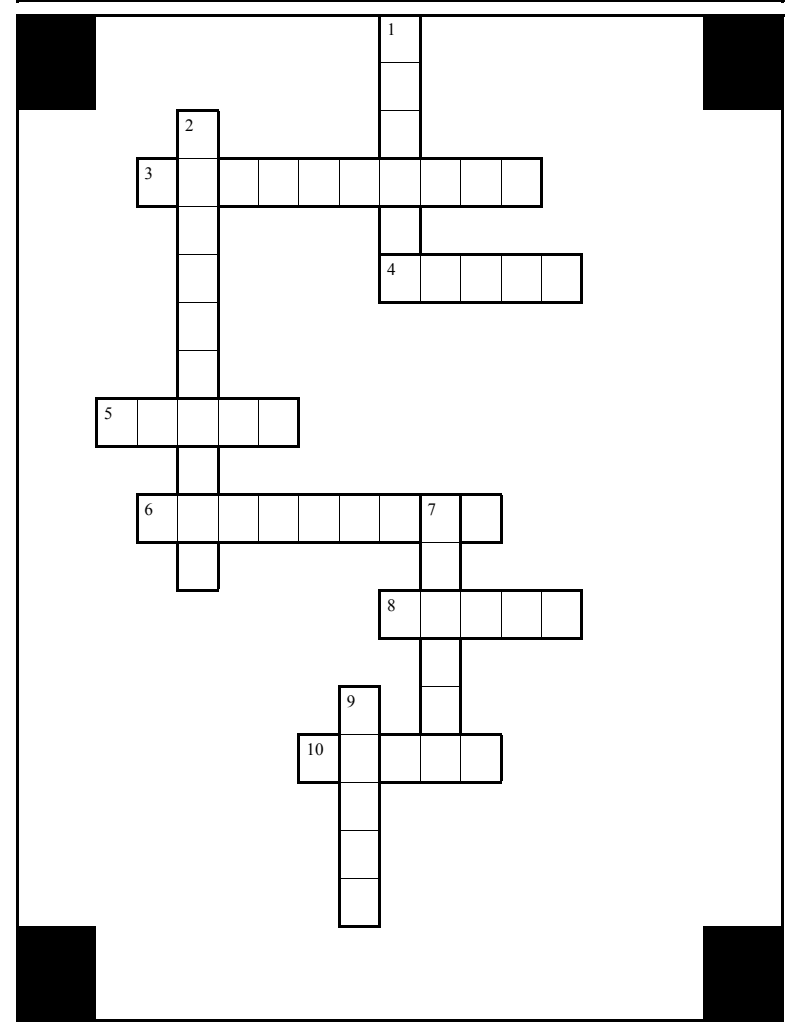
desired greetings, the best seats, and honor. Christ taught that we should not be that way. God is the only one worthy of our honor and praise. Our desires should not be to be served but to be a servant to others. The Pharisees by their traditions would break God's will. The Pharisees taught that one could swear by the temple, but not by the gold in it and that they could swear by the alter, but not by the gift upon it. Christ showed the fallacy of this thinking when he taught them that the alter is greater than the gift and the temple than the gold in it.

In many other ways the Pharisees made mockery of God's will. The Pharisees were "so good" that they even tithed of mint, anise and cummin. Those spices were very small and by most standards not even worth the time to tithe; however, the Pharisees would tithe of these. Christ upbraided them because they would tithe of those spices but had forgotten the weightier matters of the law -- justice, mercy and faith. Christ did not tell them that they should not be tithing in this way, but that they should also obey the rest of the law. Christ said, "These ought ye to have done and not to have left the others undone." There is a lesson in this for us. Do we do the will of God or our own will? Do we pick what part of God's will we want to do or do we do it all? We ought to do it all and not let any part of it be undone. Our heart should be like that of Samuel, "Speak Lord, thy servant heareth." Just giving or just obeying certain commands is not enough -- God demands that we serve and obey him whole heartily.

#### Questions

1. What did Jesus tell the people to do with what the scribes and Pharisees taught?
2. What did the Pharisees love?

W      Answer the Questions on Page  
166  
CROSS      to fill in the Puzzle.  
R



# Cross Word Fun for Learning

## Across

3. The Pharisees and Scribes liked the best seats in this place of worship.(23:6)
4. The Pharisees like to be called this. Another word for teacher. (23:7)
5. The Pharisees and scribes were these kinds of leaders.(23:16)
6. Jesus wished that this city would have to come to him like a hen gathers her chicks when he called them.(23:37)
8. The Pharisees would strain the gnats out but would swallow this.(23:24)
10. This would be left desolate to those of Jerusalem because they had not turned to the Lord.(23:38)

## Down

1. The Pharisees and scribes would bind great loads on men but would not even lift this to do the will of God.(23:4)
2. The Pharisees and Scribes were this. People who say one thing but do another.(23:27)
7. Who does this will be made low, but the one who makes himself low will have this done to him.(23:12)
9. The scribes and Pharisees sat in this person's seat.(23:2)

Lesson 20 - Across - 2. Herodians, 3. Neighbor,  
 5. Christ, 7. Angels, 8. Lawyer -  
 Down - 1. Wedding, 2. Husbands, 4. Garment,  
 5. Caesar, 6. Question, 8. Living



3. What will happen to those who exalt themselves?
4. Why did Christ rebuke the Pharisees for tithing mint, dill, and cummin? What should they have done?
5. Why did Jesus call the Pharisees hypocrites and what kind of comparison did make of them?
6. What had the Pharisees and their fathers done to God's prophets and wise men?
7. How did Jesus feel about Jerusalem?
8. What was going to happen because they had refused God?

## Match the Scripture with the Incident Verses from Matthew

- |             |           |             |             |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| a. 23:1-3   | b. 23:5-7 | c. 23:8-11  | d. 23:12    |
| e. 23:16-22 | f. 23:23  | g. 23:25-26 | h. 23:37-38 |

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The Pharisees had made a mockery of the law by teaching that one could swear by the temple but not by the gold in it. The Pharisees also taught that one could swear by the alter but not by the gift upon it.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Jesus told the people to observe the things that the Pharisees taught from the law, but not to practice their deeds.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Jesus wished that Jerusalem would have come to him when he called them, but they would not.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. The Pharisees tithed of mint, dill, and cummin but had forgotten the weightier matters of the law — mercy,

justice and faith.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. He who exalts himself shall be brought low and he who lowers himself will be exalted.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. The Pharisees like to show off and desired the places of honor and the praise of men.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. The Pharisees were like a cup that was clean on the outside, but filthy on the inside.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Christ taught that we should not seek men's praise, but should be a servant to others.

# Review

Put the Events in Order

Write in Which Chapter the Events are from

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Parable of the Sower.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Jesus asked his disciples whom men said that he was.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Christ taught that we should forgive our brother seventy times seven times and told the parable of the servant who owed his lord \$15 million dollars.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Jesus made a great entry into Jerusalem and went into temple and cast out those who bought and sold.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Jesus told the parable of the householder who hired workers in his vineyard all during the day and at the end of the day the householder paid all the workers the same starting with the last to the first.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Herod put John in prison and later had him beheaded.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. A lawyer came to Jesus and asked what the greatest commandment was.