

SERVANTWALK

august 8, 2010

VILLAINS

“WHO’S BEING SERVED? THE PHARISEES

23:1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ²“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; ³therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. ⁴They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. ⁵They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. ⁶They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷and to be greeted with

CONNECT

Share a time when you thought you knew how to do something, but then utterly failed when trying to do it.

respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. ⁸But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. ⁹And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. ¹⁰Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. ¹¹The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹²All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

Matthew 23:1-12

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Believe

Read vv. 4-10, which describes the Pharisees behavior. Now look at vv. 11-12, which describes the kind of faith Jesus is calling us to have.

What are the differences between the way the Pharisees lived versus the kind of life Jesus called the world to live?

Why do you think the Pharisees failed to translate their belief into action?

In vv. 5-7, we see that the Pharisees are very concerned with appearances. They loved "looking religious."

What are some of the ways we are tempted to "look religious" as Christians?

How can "looking religious" stand in the way of an authentic life of faith?

Where have you failed most at practicing what you preach?

Belong

Read Ephesians 2:8-9 and James 2:14-18.

How do these two passages relate to the message Jesus shares with the Pharisees?

What do you see as the proper relationship between faith and works?

If someone set out to determine what you believe by watching how you live, what conclusions do you think they would reach about your faith?

As Christians, how can we encourage one another to make sure our beliefs and actions match up?

How is God actively involved in helping our beliefs and actions match up in an authentic faith?

What area of your faith do you most need to commit to prayer?

Become

The Pharisees' knowledge got ahead of their willingness to put their belief into practice. We want to avoid that same mistake!

Name one thing you believe as a Christian that you will attempt to put in to practice in the week ahead.

Take a moment to pray that God will guide you and empower you to live differently because of this commitment.

"A man's real belief is that which he lives by. What a man believes is the thing he does, not the thing he thinks."

**George MacDonald,
Scottish Minister & Author
(1824-1905)**

TO VIEW THE SERMON

Dr. Matt Judkins preached the sermon that corresponds with this study at Church of the Servant on August 8, 2010. To view this sermon on the internet, please visit www.believelongbecome.com and follow the instructions found there.



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