

HAS THE CHURCH BECOME



*AN UNSAFE
PLACE?*



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Matthew 23:1-4

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples:

“The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.

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.”

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Matthew 23:5-7

“Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called ‘Rabbi’ by others.”

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Matthew 23:8-12

“But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth ‘father,’ for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah.

The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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Matthew 23:13-15

“**But woe to you**, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.

“**Woe to you**, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.”

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Matthew 23:13-36 – SEVEN “WOES”

Woe to you...

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Matthew 23:23-26

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—**justice, mercy and faithfulness**. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! **First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.**

GLORY TO YOU, LORD CHRIST

Matthew 23:37-39

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

GLORY TO YOU, LORD CHRIST



HAS THE CHURCH BECOME AN UNSAFE PLACE?

A vital question...
...to answer with our lives.

*Be who Jesus wants us to be.
See who Jesus wants us to see.*